British West Indies

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Slave emancipation came to the British West Indies at a critical moment in the history of slavery in the Americas. The preeminent world power in the middle decades of the nineteenth century, Britain had intermittently exerted its influence to interdict the slave trade. Likewise, when it abolished slavery itself in the British colonies in 1833, Britain indirectly brought pressure on others to follow suit. In addition, British antislavery advocates influenced and supported abolitionists in other nations—most notably in the United States—and their eventual success encouraged renewed efforts elsewhere. They helped define abolition not simply as an issue of moral rectitude but as the dividing line between civilization and human progress, on one side, and the morally benighted and the socially backward, on the other. Such convictions not only produced a sense of emancipation as one of the great divides in the course of human history but also focused popular and governmental attention on the minutest details of its progress and on its consequences. Moreover, British emancipation involved an interim period of apprenticeship during which slaves freed de jure in 1833 would be prepared for complete emancipation de facto in 1838. All of this stimulated an intense examination of the evolution of free labor, of the evolution of free institutions, and of the fate of sugar cultivation.

Though the most intense period of this extraordinary attention was the 1830s and early 1840s, the story of slavery’s destruction and its aftermath continued to unfold well into the twentieth century. One might well carry that story forward to colonial independence in 1962 or at least to the beginning of the process of decolonization in the 1940s. We have ended this bibliography in 1930, however, for the simple and pragmatic reason that the labor unrest and political contestation during the years of the Great Depression constitute an era deserving and requiring a bibliographic guide of their own.

For Anglophone readers, the British West Indian case is the most familiar of the emancipation stories in the Americas; the editorial decisions for this section reflect that judgment. Not only is there a large and constantly growing secondary literature, but there are several good bibliographies of primary and secondary sources, of particular societies and subjects, and even of other bibliographies. For one of our primary audiences—beginning doctoral and graduate seminar students—a quick entry into these resources (many of which are listed and annotated here) is essential for defining and refining research topics and locating the
most easily accessible resources for conducting research. The bibliographic guides listed here provide access to an extensive listing of sources on almost any relevant topic down to the early 1980s. Our annotated list of secondary works in turn, although by no means comprehensive or complete, gives convenient access to sources on most topics and to historiographical debates about those topics as well. Students can thus learn of potentially interesting subjects to research and get more than a “good start” on relevant topics.

In the British West Indies section we have listed the most prominent and accessible printed primary sources, but we have not annotated them. The most voluminous and useful of these sources, perhaps, are journals, descriptive accounts by travelers, and the political pamphlets issued to protest or persuade contemporaries about various issues of the day. Often the very titles of the pamphlet literature convey a good sense of their content and point of view. By their very nature, journals and travelers’ accounts—being episodic and impressionistic—are not well-served by brief synopses. A researcher is likely to turn to them less for an objective account of developments than for their chance observations, the revealing incident, or the striking personality the traveler encounters in his or her journey. A separate, comprehensive bibliography of travel literature for Latin America and the Caribbean, by Thomas Welch and Myriam Figueras, is listed in the bibliographies section below. Though not itself an annotated bibliography, it provides quotations and other descriptive material about its entries.

In our judgment the most important, and perhaps the most underutilized, printed primary sources for the West Indies are the British Parliamentary Papers, and we have concentrated our attention on annotating these. Although good finding aids exist for these documents, as noted below, this is a case where the titles of the documents often do not fully convey their content. Ostensibly generated to inform the legislative and oversight processes of Parliament, these papers consist of a variety of materials. At their most basic they are the exchange of correspondence between colonial governors and the Colonial Office, together with supporting documentation, like economic and population statistics, field reports of various government agents, and the letters, petitions, and testimony of planters, freedpeople, and other parties to disputes. Occasionally there are special reports, especially those by Royal Commissions, that provide an even greater abundance of systematic documentation on population, politics, labor and economics, and social life and conflicts. Given their importance, and their general accessibility, we have given extensive scope to the coverage and annotation of
these documents. We believe that even advanced scholars will find this section helpful in developing their research agendas. The *British Parliamentary Papers* are available in printed or microform copies in many university libraries and through interlibrary loan. The Irish University Press has also issued a selected reprinting of the collection.

Thomas C. Holt

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**BIBLIOGRAPHIES, HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ESSAYS, AND INDEXES**

   Consists of a collection of accounts selected from a variety of primary documents and is intended primarily “for use in the senior forms of secondary schools” to illustrate and inform about various aspects of Caribbean life and history. Includes sections on economic life, government and politics, religion and education before emancipation, slavery and its abolition, emancipation and apprenticeship, social conditions since emancipation, and attempts at unification, 1831–1958. Indexed.

   Organized by subject, including descriptive historical accounts and sections on government and politics, social and economic themes, and education. A mixture of both primary and secondary accounts with several entries pertaining to the postemancipation period listed among citations that precede and follow this period. Selected historical accounts are relevant for postemancipation issues, and various government reports dealing with early-twentieth-century economic issues are also included.

   This index begins with a “Historical Note on the Formation of the Association of Caribbean Historians,” includes both an author and a subject index to conference papers, and concludes with a list of the published
conference papers. The latter includes papers on “Social Groups and Institutions in the History of the Caribbean”; “Some Papers on Social, Political, and Economic Adjustments to the Ending of Slavery in the Caribbean”; and “Politics, Society, and Culture in the Caribbean.”


Boomgaard and Oostindie discuss two strains of historiographical literature in the Caribbean that address the connection between “technological development and changing labour relations in the Caribbean” and the revisions to these two historiographical traditions in recent decades. They note that this historiographical literature “is often embedded in a broader context, namely the debate on the profitability of slave labour as such” and cite the publication of Seymour Drescher’s *Econocide* as marking a shift away from older economic arguments offered by Eric Williams and Lowell Ragatz. Boomgaard and Oostindie discuss various strategies and innovations sought by planters, the extent and quality of labor available to planters, and the relative merits of free as opposed to slave labor.


Arranged alphabetically by author and covers the entire Caribbean, including Belize, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana. Deals with groups who migrated into the Caribbean region, the process of acculturation, the migrants’ influence on Caribbean societies, interregional migration, and migration outside of the region. The bibliography is multidisciplinary and includes literature in several languages.


Brereton discusses the significance of gender as an analytical concept and the need for a conceptual approach incorporating gender into historical research on the British Caribbean. She outlines the experience of women during slavery and the documents left by them, approaches to
family life and motherhood, the experience of female emigrants to the British West Indies, and their participation in the labor force.


Listing of materials held at the Center for Research Libraries available to libraries belonging to LAMP and CRL. Listings for the British Caribbean include: The Dominican (1842–1907); the Berbice Gazette (1846, 1870–71); Colonist (Guyana; 1869–1870); Demerara Daily Chronicle (Nov. 5, 1881–1897); several Jamaican sources that run (respectively and discontinuously) from 1865 to 1956; records for the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society and Church Missionary Society; three newspaper holdings for Trinidad and Tobago that run from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth century; and other more recent holdings for the Caribbean as a whole.


This compilation includes holdings for gazettes from the Bahamas (1914–1921), Bermuda (July 1862–1864), Jamaica (1902, 1906–1907), and Trinidad (1895–1899 and 1914–1916), in addition to other Caribbean islands and Latin America. Some of these holdings are on microfilm, while others are originals.


An expanded, updated, and improved version of the same author’s The Complete Caribbeana, 1900–1965, published in 1968. The first three volumes are divided into sixty-three topical sections, while the fourth volume provides an author and geographical index. The first volume deals with “People,” the second with “Institutions,” and the third with “Resources.” Several sections are relevant to the study of the postemancipation British Caribbean. Those of particular interest include: “Slavery and Emancipation” (ch. 6), “Population Segments: Afro-Caribbean” (ch. 11), “Population Segments: East Indian” (ch. 12), “Internal and External Migration” (ch. 17), “Plantation Economics and the Sugar Complex” (ch. 42), “Agricultural Economics” (ch. 43), and “Land Tenure” (ch. 44). There are also sections covering the general history and economics of
the Caribbean, and an opening chapter on “Bibliographic and Archival Research.” Many entries are cross-listed.


Craton examines the transition from slavery to wage labor from the 1780s through 1886 and the emancipation of slaves in Cuba. He calls for greater integration between more localized studies of slave emancipation and broader transitions in the Atlantic world, with the goal of identifying commonalities and differences in the experience and structure of slavery and the transition to wage labor in the various Caribbean islands.


Chronological record of disturbances since emancipation, arranged by date and colony with brief overviews of the various disturbances and riots. Over four pages are devoted to the Morant Bay Rebellion, and two cover the 1903 Water Riot in Trinidad. The six-page bibliography includes folios, commission reports, and information contained in the *British Parliamentary Papers*.


Engerman outlines the general arguments offered to explain the onset of emancipation, including questions regarding the profitability of slavery and the extent to which slavery was on the decline in various slaveholding societies on the eve of emancipation. Engerman then discusses production outputs during the transition to free labor following emancipation, including consideration of the British colonies—Barbados and Antigua in particular—as well as the contemporary response to emancipation in the British West Indies generally.


Bibliographical essay of works on and by Garvey, including bibliographies, his various writings, biographies, and works on the Garvey movement. More general works assessing Garvey in relationship to black nationalism are also mentioned. Brief mention is made of the religious
aspects of Garveyism, newspaper and journal articles, pamphlets, unpublished theses, and audiovisual and other material. A bibliography of forty-six references is included at the end.


Discusses rural groups in the nineteenth-century Caribbean, with particular focus on the British Caribbean. Fraser considers the economic importance of the Caribbean as a colonial area, particularly as it differed in both perception and function from other territories such as Australia. Also addresses theoretical frameworks employed by Immanuel Wallerstein, Karl Marx, and Don Robotham in exploring the nature and character of capitalism in the Caribbean. Discusses rural society prior to and following emancipation, particularly the “labour problem” after emancipation, the various choices and constraints facing rural groups, and the different relationships such groups had with the plantation. A selective bibliography of ninety-six references follows Fraser’s essay.


A listing of various manuscripts, microfilm collections, and maps available at the University of Florida and the Latin American Studies center located there. The “Bahamas Government Records” comprise fifty-five reels of microfilm covering the period from 1700 to 1860 and consist of deeds, mortgages, satisfactions and releases, crown grants, wills, House of Assembly records, chancery records, dowers, pleas, and slave emancipation papers (1831–45). The “Trinidad Papers” (1814–45) consist of “despatches” of the colonial governor, while the “Tobago Papers” cover the period from 1800 to 1880. Several newspapers of potential interest are also located here.


Arranged chronologically, covering the period of discovery, seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. Goveia discusses works covering the major developments and issues in the West Indies during this period,
noting that the authors demonstrate some uniformity in both reflecting and refracting the intellectual currents of their day. Those writing in the eighteenth century displayed a concern for social order, crisis, and tension as the colonies were established, while those of the nineteenth century discussed slavery, abolition, political economy, and the potential problems of emancipation. Goveia concludes with a brief chapter summarizing some of the main themes as illustrated by particular authors, addressing in the process more general questions on the nature of historiography and historical objectivity.


Arranged alphabetically by colony, including all British possessions. Incorporates original correspondence (Board of Trade and Secretary of State), entry books for commissions, sessional papers, government gazettes, newspapers, blue books, and miscellaneous categories of material. The record number, date, and a brief description is given for each entry. References date from the seventeenth to the late nineteenth century.


Green emphasizes how West Indian historiography has always drawn upon other disciplines and that methodological and historiographical concerns are often intertwined. He sees Eric Williams’s *Capitalism and Slavery* as “profoundly” influential in shaping the course of scholarly work on the British West Indies. Article proceeds chronologically from the slavery period, discussing such works as Richard Sheridan’s *Sugar and Slavery*, Roger Anstey’s *The Atlantic Slave Trade and British Abolition*, and Richard Dunn’s *Sugar and Slaves*. J. Harry Bennett, Elsa Goveia, and Orlando Patterson are discussed in the section dealing with slavery studies, while studies of emancipation and postemancipation society begin with issues springing from Williams’s work and continue with discussions of Philip Curtin’s *Two Jamaica*, Douglas Hall’s *Free Jamaica*, Alan Adamson’s *Sugar Without Slaves*, William Green’s *British Slave Emancipation*, Donald Wood’s *Trinidad in Transition*, and monographs on indentured labor by Judith Weller and Dwarka Nath.

A broad introduction to the major research topics and archives in Central America and the Caribbean, including the non-British Caribbean. Topical essays of particular importance for research in the Caribbean include: Marianne D. Ramesar’s “Migrant Groups in the Caribbean,” Richard Sheridan’s “Exploitative Systems: Slavery, Commerce, and Industry,” and Franklin Knight’s “Class, Race, and Religion in Caribbean Research.” Describes archives in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Barbados, the Bahamas, Bermuda, St. Vincent, the British Virgin Islands, and the rest of the eastern and western Caribbean.


This bibliography is arranged alphabetically according to subject matter, and it covers “bibliographies produced up to April 1981 about the lands and peoples of the former British Caribbean territories,” along with a listing of these territories. A name and subject index is included at the end, and locational symbols are given with each entry, many of which can be found only at collections housed in libraries and archives in particular West Indian countries. The sections include “Bibliography of Bibliographies,” “Agriculture,” “Economics,” “Ethnic Groups,” “History,” “Industrial Relations,” “Race Relations,” and “Social and Economic Conditions.” The “History” section includes a listing of guides to records and archives in the Caribbean, as well as unpublished bibliographies and typescripts held in various libraries in the West Indies. Some of these may have information relevant to the postemancipation period, including one on *The English-Speaking West Indies—Post Emancipation 1831–1865*, which lists holdings at the main library of the University of the West Indies. The section on “Law” covers various indexes to laws, court reports, decisions, and other primary legal materials, many of which fall within the postemancipation period.


A comprehensive list of British West Indian newspapers founded between 1718 and 1969. Provides the name of paper, frequency of publication, and founding and, where available, ending date. List preceded by a brief commentary on the exigencies of West Indian newspaper publishing.
Organized alphabetically by individual territories with an initial section on the Caribbean as a whole. Includes a listing of material available in the Institute of Social and Economic Research and the University of the West Indies in Cave Hill, as well as the St. Augustine library. Sections for each individual territory cover economic, sociological, and historical literature. Both postemancipation and more modern citations included. Orientation is toward more technical/economic/production-oriented contemporary accounts from agricultural journals such as *Timehri, Tropical Agriculture*, and *West India Bulletin*. Colonial Office reports covering the postemancipation period include reports from sugar commissions and economic circumstances generally, as well as reports on labor. Includes sections on Belize and British Honduras.

Moore discusses the integration of political and academic goals in the work of Walter Rodney, particularly as illustrated through his *A History of the Guyanese Working People*, finished shortly before his death.

Divided into thirty-one topical sections. Opens with a discussion of the history of Dominica and a chapter on sources consulted, followed by chapters on such subjects as Amerindians, descriptive historical and travel literature, agriculture, British parliamentary materials and official records, and archives in Europe, Britain, the United States and the West Indies. Entries falling within the postemancipation period can be found in the History, Agriculture, and the British Parliamentary sections, including citations to pamphlets and speeches, reports on labor disturbances, reports on labor supply and agricultural conditions, and papers relating to apprenticeship. Not annotated. Includes a name and subject index, along with locational symbols for each entry.

Divided into ten sections, including bibliographies and catalogues, works by Garvey, major books on Garvey, other books and articles discussing Garvey, theses and dissertations, audio-visual materials, works relating Garvey to Rastafarianism, and various newspaper articles. Some entries have brief annotations.


Many citations cover or were published in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, with a few references from the early twentieth century. Arranged alphabetically by author. Works related to emancipation and postemancipation studies include those of Martha Beckwith and Frank Cundall, John Bigelow’s *Jamaica in 1850*, James A. Thome’s *Emancipation in the West Indies*, William Finlanson’s *The History of Jamaica*, Thomas Harvey’s *Jamaica in 1866*, Sylvester Hovey’s *Letters from the West Indies*, Mathew G. Lewis’s *Journal of a Residence among the Negroes in the West Indies* (1845), the Rev. B. Luckock’s *Jamaica: Enslaved and Free* (1846), and the Rev. James M. Phillipp’s *Jamaica: Its Past and Present State*.


This bibliography begins with a brief overview of the nature and significance of British Caribbean newspapers, the survival and preservation of certain papers, and the social, political, and economic information that can be gleaned from such sources, particularly for the postemancipation period. Entries for this bibliography were taken primarily from the microfilmed collection and original holdings of the University of Florida’s Latin American collection and cover the entire British Caribbean with the exception of Belize and British Guiana.


Discussion of recent research on the preemancipation era, postemancipation, migration and East Indians, education, women’s experiences, biography, and Tobago. A listing of conferences is included at the con-
clusion of her article, along with a bibliography of seventy-eight references to journal and conference literature.


Deals with Indian emigration to and settlement in the British Commonwealth and other territories from 1830 to 1950. Primary concern is with the indentured labor system and related social, political, and economic issues as they unfolded in areas where Indians settled. Part 1 includes a general historical background, information on the primary areas of Indian settlement, and a select bibliography. Part 2 gives a description and listing of the various holdings and records in the India Office, which include industry, economic, judicial, private files, and private papers including correspondence and committee records. An appendix lists other holdings in overseas archives, including some for Jamaica. Some individual entries pertain to Trinidad, British Guiana, and Jamaica.


A bibliographical guide to published census material for each country in Latin America and the Caribbean up to 1979, providing a listing of the libraries (with location, address, and telephone number) that hold the material and a library code for each entry. The editor notes that some of the older censuses were more broadly defined than contemporary censuses and include missionary reports and conversions, baptismal, and burial records as well as lists of merchants’ and travelers’ accounts. Each country is listed alphabetically, and there is also a section covering the Commonwealth Caribbean. The majority of the entries for Barbados, Belize (British Honduras), Guyana (British Guiana), the Leeward Islands, and Trinidad and Tobago were published prior to 1946. Nine of the entries for Jamaica were published prior to 1943. Several entries would be of interest to researchers of the postemancipation era in the British West Indies, including an 1845 census “of the population in each of the British Islands . . . with information re. numbers of emancipated negroes who have become freeholders.”

Addresses both theoretically and historiographically the “flight” debate and labor shortage issues following emancipation as discussed by historians such as Douglas Hall and Emanuel Rivière. Uses material from three Dominican parishes, from the beginning of emancipation to November of 1838, to discuss both the underlying assumptions guiding previous work and to examine the complex relationships between notions of freedom and choice and structural factors, including estate size and working conditions.


Includes the non-British West Indies, Central America, Mexico, and South America. Arranged alphabetically by country. Not annotated, though some citations carry quotations from the sources. Includes work focused on particular social and economic issues, including emancipation and postemancipation society such as William Sewell’s *The Ordeal of Free Labour in the British West Indies*, Joseph Sturge’s *The West Indies in 1837*, James A. Thome’s *Emancipation in the West Indies*, as well as more general historical and descriptive accounts covering topography, climate, natural history, and travel literature. The section on British Guiana consists of several entries dealing with various ethnic groups.


Covers historical writing on the British West Indies from the slavery period to the era following World War II. Included in this chronology is coverage of the years between 1830 and 1880, between 1880 and 1914, and the period between the two World Wars. Three chapters are devoted to the Morant Bay Rebellion of 1865 and various interpretations of that event. Williams sketches the political, social, intellectual, economic, and colonial contexts and assumptions that informed the work of British historians. This includes a discussion of how the ideas of Adam Smith and Jeremy Bentham informed some work, as well as how racial ideas were intertwined with labor issues and problems in Britain. Williams discusses, among others, the work of Thomas Carlyle, Anthony Trollope, and William Sewell. Frank Tannenbaum, W. L. Burn, and Williams are among those discussed in the chapter dealing with the period following World War II, when some writing was influenced by the burgeoning independence movements.


40. Barton, Premium. *Eight years in British Guiana; being the journal of a residence in that province, from 1840 to 1848, inclusive. With anecdotes and incidents illustrating the social condition of its inhabitants; and of the opinions of the writer on the state and prospects of our sugar colonies generally.* London: Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans, 1850. 305 p.


75. Hancock, Thomas. *Are the West India colonies to be preserved? A few plain facts; showing the necessity of immigration into British Guiana and the West Indies, and the utter futility of all efforts towards the abolition of slavery and the slave trade which do not include this. Addressed more particularly to the legislature.* London: W. E. Painter, Strand, Printer, 1840. 16 p.


82. Hovey, Sylvester. *Letters from the West Indies, Relating Especially to the Danish Island, St. Croix, and to the British Islands, Antigua, Barbadoes, and Jamaica.* New York: Gould and Newman, 1838. 212 p.


102. Morson, Henry. *The present condition of the British West Indies; their wants, and the remedy for these with some practical hints, shewing the policy of a new system, as a means to their future regeneration*. London: Smith, Elder, 1841. 63 p.


121. Senior, Bernard Martin. *Jamaica as It Was, as It Is, and as It May Be. Comprising Interesting Topics for Absent Proprietors, Merchants and C., and Valuable Hints to Persons Intending to Emigrate to the Island. Also an Authentic Narrative of the Negro Insurrection in 1831, with a Faithful Detail of the Manners, Customs and Habits of the Colonists, and a Description of the Country, Climate, Production and C., including an Abridgement of the Slave Law*. London: T. Hurst, 1835. 313 p.


132. Stuart, Charles. *The West India Question. Immediation Emancipation Would Be Safe for the Masters; Profitable for the Masters; Happy for the Slaves; Right in the Government; Advantageous to the Nation; Would Interfere with No Feelings but Such as are Disgraceful and Destructive; Cannot be Postponed Without Continually Increasing Danger. An Outline for Immediate Emancipation; and Remarks on Compensation*. New Haven: Hezekiah Howe, 1833. 43 p.

133. Sturge, Joseph. *The present condition of the negro population in the British colonies; particularly in relation to the working of the apprenticeship system established under the “Act for the Abolition of Slavery”*. London: Johnston & Barrett, 1837.


**BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS**

These merchants protested against and claimed compensation for the losses resulting from the Order of the King in Council of 2 November 1831 regarding the Crown colonies. They also protested actions by the Crown toward the legislative colonies in the British West Indies, arguing that “the intention of His Majesty’s Ministers to propose to Parliament to adopt Fiscal Regulations for the purpose of coercing the Legislative Colonies” was “cruelly oppressive” given the “commercial distress to which they have been reduced.” They also argued that given “the present dangerous and excited state of the Colonies, it is calculated to produce no other effect than the ruin and destruction of the Property of the Colonists, and ultimately the degradation and barbarism of the Negro Population.” They also resented what they characterized as “arbitrary interference with private Property without first providing a Parliamentary Fund for compensation.”


Materials of the 1823 Select Committee were primarily confined to Jamaica, including an investigation of “the fair and equitable consideration of the Interests of Private Property,” in connection with the upcoming emancipation. Contains 560 pages of oral evidence, carefully indexed, from Jamaican religious leaders, colonial administrators, estate owners, and others. Testimonies give a detailed description of slave plantation political economy, as well as assessments of “willingness to work” on the part of the future “free black population.” Population statistics for twelve estates (1817–29) include African and Creole population. Also contains commentary by the “Protector of Slaves” for British Guiana.


Collection begins with Secretary of State Stanley’s dispatches to British West India Governors asking for their cooperation in improving the lot of ex-slaves and asking for information on how best to proceed. Includes Stanley’s original resolution for the Abolition of Colonial Slavery (14 May 1833) and the text of Jamaica’s Slavery Abolition Act and Proclamation (March and April 1834). The legislative debates and Governor Musgrave’s speeches concerning the act are included, as well as infor-
mation related to Governor Sligo’s subsequent difficulties with an intransigent House of Assembly. Also includes descriptions of early “acts of violence” related to the transition from slavery, including resistance by ex-slaves at Belvedere estate led by a woman, seventy-year-old Christian Mowatt. Evidence includes interviews with estate managers, proprietors, and special magistrates relating to the performance of apprentices, wages, and work conditions.


This large collection of papers concerns the transition from slavery to apprenticeship. For Jamaica, collection includes Governor Sligo’s advice to newly apprenticed ex-slaves, explaining work hours and rights as workers (August 1834). Also includes reports by Special Magistrates in a number of parishes on how ex-slaves reacted to wage labor and the apprenticeship system. A discussion of measures to establish minimum conditions for work hours, wages, and rations is included. Similar materials are found for British Guiana, including debate over “scales of task work” for day laborers, Sunday markets, and a new police force. Includes special judicial reports for 1834, which relay complaints from planters and evidence of resistance to the new system by workers, including the transcript of the “Trial of Damon,” an ex-slave sentenced to death for “riotous behaviour” in Demerara. Evidence of violence on Grenada at the commencement of the apprentice system is also included. Appendices contain legislative acts and proclamations relative to the transformation from slavery to apprenticeship, including Jamaica’s Act for the Abolition of Slavery (12 December 1833).


Similar in nature to (278-I), described above, this item includes numerous proclamations and ordinances for the establishment of new judicial and police districts. Description of work stoppages in Trinidad and the government’s response (August 1834) are included. Speeches and proclamations by Governors for most colonies addressing the newly apprenticed ex-slave population reveal a great deal about colonial expectations of a smooth and rational transformation to wage labor. The speech of
newly arrived Governor Young at St. Lucia to ex-slaves is indicative of this discourse.


Contains revision of original Act of Abolition by House of Assembly and the subsequent debate between the “Imperial and Colonial Legislatures.” Lord Glenelg threatens to deny access to compensation loan money (act-in-aid) if the Jamaican legislature continues to be intransigent. This should be read with the collection of letters which follow in the same volume [1835 (174), vol. 480] from William Burge of the Jamaican Assembly to Lord Glenelg complaining of Governor Sligo’s role in implementing abolition. These debates reveal much about the interests of planters and their control of the legislature.


Important aspects of the transition to apprenticeship are introduced in this item. The debate over valuation of apprentices is investigated in response to accusations that some planters and special magistrates are setting values too high in order to keep apprentices on plantations, particularly women apprentices. Statistics and individual cases for valuations for Jamaica are included. Special magistrates’ reports are included for 1835 in Jamaica, including inspections of “native grounds” explaining living conditions and provisions for 987 estates. Reports describe employer complaints and worker resistance to new work schedules, as well as women’s protests about working conditions. Also discusses initial investigations of corporal punishments of women in work houses, including the testimonies of women concerning such treatment. Part I concerns Jamaica, and part II the rest of British West India, including special magistrate’s reports for British Guiana.

with the Minutes of Evidence, Appendix and Index.” Parliamentary Papers 1836 (560), vol. 15.

Extensive investigation into labor conditions in Jamaica following a Jamaican legislative attempt to change terms of apprenticeship against the advice of the Colonial Office. The contested issues included hours of work, use of “work houses” as punishment, using chains on women prisoners, marriage law provisions, and inadequate education. Oral evidence from a group of prominent Jamaican politicians, planters, and labor agents is included. Appendices are rich in material for British Guiana and Jamaica, as well as acts and ordinances from smaller colonies. There are replies to a questionnaire in Jamaica concerning the treatment of prisoners in eighteen parishes. Summarizes special magistrates’ reports concerning the “industry and conduct” of the apprentices and conduct of masters (1835–36). Also has summaries by special magistrates of living conditions in and near plantations, wages, and valuation tables. Captain Oldrey comments on Jamaica’s abolition acts, including their effects on Creoles, Maroons, and skilled “free” labor.


Details production before and after abolition in Jamaica, including a general return of exports over a fifty-three-year period (1772–1836) as well as special magistrates’ accounts of relative progress of apprentice system, testimony of apprentice laborers on “abuses and irregularities” existing in the House of Correction in St. John’s and St. Mary’s Parishes, and testimonies from St. Thomas-in-the-Vale concerning disputes between men and women apprentices over domestic work. Other items include stories of runaway apprentices, statistics on fines paid by overseers, and valuation returns. Barbados evidence includes prison investigations, lists of assaults, classification problems of apprentices, and useful monthly reports of special magistrates on the state of apprenticed labor (1836–37). British Guiana material is similar in content, including summaries of monthly reports of fifteen special magistrates for 1836. Also relates complaints lodged from Antigua and Montserrat that British Guiana was drawing away their laborers. Appendix contains a good collection in one place of acts and ordinances regulating lives of ex-slaves between 1836 and 1837, for example, masters and servants ordinances, Sunday markets proclamations, and criminal justice acts.

Latrobe went to Jamaica in April 1837 to investigate how British money for Negro education had been utilized. His report (19 October 1837) related how he found numerous obstacles impeding the creation of schools. Missionaries complained that landowners were not cooperating in giving up land for the purpose, while others blamed missionaries for moving too slowly. Comparisons of various mission societies are provided as well as statistics on schools, attendance, and type of instruction for all parishes and major towns.


Collection of papers relating to the public exposure in Britain of the severity of work and punishment in Jamaica. Includes the text of eighteen-year-old apprentice James William’s “A Narrative of Events since the 1st August 1834,” which describes the abuses of the workhouse and the treadmill. Popularized by the Anti-Slavery Society in Britain, William’s narrative prompted an investigation of St. Ann Parish which produced further testimonies, including twenty-one by women and men describing “acts of severity and cruelty” experienced in the workhouse. Also contains special magistrates’ reports, including comparisons of slavery and apprenticeship and correspondence between Governor Smith and Lord Glenelg (1837) on the failure to implement the nine-hour work day for apprentices. Includes apprentice valuation tables for all parishes for the years 1836 and 1837.


Correspondence covers the period just prior to the abolition of the apprentice system, with reports by special magistrates and others on the crisis created over the apprentice classification system and valuations. Barbados material also discusses apprenticeship of children, valuations, classifications, statistics on punishments, and a reply by planters to accusations in the press that the apprentice system was equivalent to slavery. Similar materials included for British Guiana, such as responses to a Mr. Scoble, of the British Anti-Slavery Society, who wrote critically on
the apprenticeship system. Includes Governor Young’s reply to Scoble’s
descriptions of women apprentices being “condemned to the treadmill.”
Governor Young charges Scoble with spreading alarming rumors in St.
Patrick Parish concerning a murdered laborer. Testimonies by other
workers around the case are enclosed as well as examples of the inflated
valuations of men and women apprentices, which made it more difficult
for apprentices to buy out their contracts.

and Colonial Ordinances for the Better Regulation and Enforcement
of the Relative Duties of Masters and Employers and Articled
Servants, Tradesmen, and Labourers in the Colony of British Guiana,
and of Correspondence Thereon.” Parliamentary Papers 1837–38
(180)(232), vol. 52. 11 p.
Collection covers important negotiations between British Guiana and
labor recruiters in Calcutta concerning East Indian emigration. John
Gladstone of British Guiana expressed the opinion that “Negro Appren-
tices” were not likely to continue working on estates in the same man-
ner after apprenticeship. Condition of Indian laborers is discussed, in-
cluding charges of abuses of “Hill Coolies” in Demerara, comparison of
treatment of Black and Indian laborers, and the ratio of men and women
immigrants. Describes origin of term “Hill Coolies” and relates new
masters and servants ordinances regarding the treatment of Indian
workers.

Latrobe to Lord Glenelg, on Negro Education in the Windward and
Leeward Islands [also, Schedule Showing the Appropriation of the
Sum of £30,000 Voted by Parliament in 1837, for the Promotion of
Negro Education; also, Report of Trustees of Lady Mico’s Charity].”
Latrobe visited a number of Islands in April 1838, collecting compara-
tive evidence from the propertied classes about their views on “Negro
Education.” This report, similar to the report on Jamaica, contains
schedules giving detailed information on each school and the missions
running such schools. Contains general demographic material, includ-
ing statistics on apprentice populations on various islands. Also contains
data on how the monies appropriated for the “Promotion of Negro Edu-
cation” were spent between 1837 and 1838, by Colony and Parish. The
1838 report of the Trustees of Lady Mico’s Charity, established to help
provide education for ex-slaves, is also included.

Concerns the views of the governors and special magistrates regarding the decision to end apprenticeships for both classes of apprentices in 1838—two years earlier than originally stipulated for the “praedial” class. Includes accounts of Privy Council meetings on Barbados, as well as an account of initial opposition in the Virgin Islands, which gave way to subsequent celebrations after President Isaacs attained approval of the measure. Includes texts of the acts for each island.


Contains Jamaican Governor Smith’s address to special session of the Assembly called to discuss the ending of apprenticeships for both praedial and nonpraedial classes. Address by Col. M’Turk in British Guiana to the Court Of Policy in favor of abolition is included, as are extracts from legislative councils on Dominica and Grenada on that topic. There is also a letter of opposition to the move from Tobago planters.


Covering the period June 1838 to February 1839, this collection of correspondence covers the debate over the early ending of the apprenticeship system. Dispatches from Lord Glenelg recommend keeping special magistrates in place to help with a smooth transition and queries to colonial governors on the implementation of new legal protections for “free laborers.” Responses from Jamaican Governor Smith contain texts of new acts, along with extensive reports from special magistrates on the problems incurred during the transition. Also contains “letters of thanks” to Governor Smith from “Freedmen,” and the governor’s proclamation to the freedmen telling them of their new responsibilities, particularly concerning rents. Reports on celebrations on the day of abolition and of threats of violence in Trelawny Parish led by “two black women.” Includes numerous special magistrate reports on difficulties
over wages and rents as well as Governor Smith’s pessimistic report (December 1838) on the general failure of laborers and planters to come to agreement. Also includes petitions from “Emancipated Peasantry” (three thousand persons) complaining of lack of enfranchisement in St. Mary’s Parish as well as rich material on British Guiana, with details of the day of abolition and reports by special magistrates on the immediate performance of free laborers.


This collection contains the text of each colony’s Act for Abolishing Apprenticeships (1 August 1838). Contains various governors’ speeches to apprenticed laborers prior to abolition; subsequent bills and acts to regulate free labor contracts, vagrancy, poor relief, and landlord and tenant relations. Gives evidence of each colony’s response to abolition, such as increasing police powers and scope in rural areas. Also has accounts of disputes between proprietors and workers, special magistrates’ records of cases heard after 1 August, and reports of violence in places such as Grenada, where ex-apprentices protected property, which they alleged had been “given to them by the Queen.” Useful survey of responses related to the “Free system” in Barbados, as well as detailed reports from other Windward Islands about the performance of ex-apprentices.


Provides extensive material on the transition from apprenticeship to the “free labour” system, including accounts from special magistrates regarding the many problems encountered by such officials, who were often accused of favoritism towards workers. Questionnaires from the Colonial Office ask special magistrates about topics including labor conditions, health, education, living conditions, marriage, and old age. Details of prisons, police, and punishment are included, as are the changes in laws concerning masters and servants and vagrancy and trespassing. Specific statistics included on apprentice populations, giving wages, work hours, and disputes between workers and employers.


Includes extensive census data of all recorded indentured laborers in British Guiana, covering the fifteen special magistrate districts. Includes name, place of origin, monthly wages, employment type, clothing inventory, health status, and comments related to “general behaviour.” Census data for May 1838 gives idea of number of apprentices three months prior to the abolition of apprenticeship on 1 August 1838. Includes data on 1,877 males and 522 females of Indian, African, and European origin. Also includes an overview on the status of ex-apprentices, and their ability to redress injustices. Comments on intermarriage between Indians and Africans. Lengthy description of treatment of laborers on two plantations, “Bellevue” and “Vreed-en-Hoop,” regarding mistreatment of “Hill Coolies.”


Collection provides coverage of disputes both in government and on the plantations in the year following the end of apprenticeships. Includes accusations regarding special magistrates’ role in mediating disputes over wages, rents, and working conditions for new wage workers. Other materials include: special magistrates’ reports, court proceedings, school inspections, correspondence from landowners’ associations, and newspaper reports. Includes accusations that Baptist missionaries were inciting laborers against landowners and transcripts of meetings. Nonpayment of rent by laborers in first year triggers Governor Smith’s proclamation (25 May 1839) declaring that workers’ belief that they owned houses and land was “totally erroneous.” Includes workers’ protest petitions and letters concerning accusations of “increased profligacy and immorality” of African women after end of apprenticeship. British Guiana materials include Governor Light’s address on the effects of emancipation of indentured laborers (19 February 1839), returns from special magistrates for 1839 recording the complaints of laborers and employers, and protest petitions from “Free Labourers” to the Governor complaining of “ill-treatment, overwork, and underpay.”
Correspondence between colonial governors of Jamaica, Smith and Metcalfe, and the Marquis of Normanby and Lord John Russell on problems with the transition from an apprentice to a wage labor system. Descriptions of disturbances in St. George Parish, where magistrates were “pelted with stones” by women over issues of rents and evictions. Includes special magistrates’ reports on conditions of agriculture, a resolution from peasantry in Vere Parish making claims to their houses and gardens, and statistics on land under cultivation for all parishes. Also contains reports from Westmoreland Parish on an insurrection allegedly begun by rumors originating from a black woman, Sara Oliphant, of the impending murder of all black men by the white and brown men, and the re-enslavement of black women. Also contains papers on the transition from Governor Smith to Governor Metcalfe, with reports of threats on Smith’s life and Metcalfe’s report on the state of the island (16 October 1839).

Contains orders to the governors of the West Indies Colonies from Lord Glenelg (15 May 1839) to stop the practice of indenturing Africans sent to these islands after having been freed from slave ships. A subsequent dispatch gives special magistrates the responsibility for seeing that such freed Africans are assisted in finding employment and accommodation. (See PP 1841 Sess. II [346], vol. 3 for a detailed example of this process recorded by a special magistrate in British Guiana.)

Contains reports of conditions of Indian laborers based on investigation of complaints on various plantations. Includes monthly special magistrate reports for 1839 covering six districts with answers to survey on treatment of Indian workers and reference to relations between Indians and Africans. Also includes detailed statistical return for 257 Indians apprenticed to Demerara and Berbice, including names, place of origin
in India, caste, and the name of proprietor to whom they were contracted.

Correspondence between Governor MacGregor and the Marquis of Normanby and Lord Russell from February 1839 to May 1840. Primary topic is court reforms, including changes in judicial offices, the Court of Appeals, marriage laws, and an act “to prevent the clandestine deportation of young persons.” Reports from police magistrates on the working of the “free labor system,” with comparisons made to the performance of labor during apprenticeships. Also includes information on prisons, punishments, and laws to help keep laborers on the island. Records of an experimental “Court of Reconciliation” give testimony of workers, including cases involving women, domestic violence, and land disputes.

Concerns the attempt by Governor Light and landowners to revive immigration of Indians to the colony, including monthly reports on the status of the “Hill Coolies,” production statistics, ordinances on establishment of police, abolition of Sunday markets, and poor relief. Special magistrates’ records of complaints (monthly, 1839–41) are included. Collection is a good source on the progress made by ex-slaves and apprentices in purchasing their own land. Includes survey of estates by special magistrates and statistics on estates and lands purchased by laborers. Detailed description given of purchases of plantation “New Orange,” Nassau in Demerera. Also contains a report by two African-American visitors from the “Free Coloured People of Baltimore” (January 1840) giving their impressions of British Guiana and Trinidad as possible places to settle and a detailed report by Special Magistrate Wolseley on his visits to plantations in Demerara (July 1841).


Report written by Mr. Woslely, circuit special magistrate, detailing his visit to the areas where complaints of ill-treatment of Indian laborers first originated. The report gives an account of conditions following the transition to “free labour” and the increase in agricultural production in 1840. Woslely describes new settlements of ex-slaves and relocated Sierra Leone Africans on lands purchased by associations of plantation workers. (Details of purchases provided.) Also describes the process of allocating newly arrived freed Africans from slave ships captured off Brazilian coast. Describes how 145 women, men, and children were divided into groups of fifteen and twenty and sent to plantations in the area. Statistical data provided on crop production and wages (1840) for twenty-nine plantations; census of ninety-one Sierra Leone Africans in Demerara; captured Africans living in Berbice; and total land purchased by former slaves and apprenticed laborers.


Significant collection of evidence concerning the transition to “free labour” and the response of the colonial state. Correspondence between Governor Metcalfe and Lord John Russell complaining of the intervention of special magistrates against the interest of landholders. Summary of Jamaican legislation and debates reveals the tensions between property owners and labor. Extensive report on the inadequacies of Jamaican prisons and gaols, with statistics and some prison plans. Contains biannual reports of special magistrates covering labor conditions, landlord-tenant relations, missionary activities, education, wage and labor costs, and production statistics. One report includes a comparison of plantation expenditures under slavery, apprenticeship, and freedom. Also includes statistics on increase in property-owning laborers between 1838 and 1840.


Contains special magistrates’ reports concerning the performance of free laborers following abolition of apprenticeships. Trinidad material also concerned with immigrant laborers from Sierra Leone and evidence produced by the Agricultural and Immigration Society on the difficulty of finding laborers. Includes population statistics from 1797 to 1838. St. Lucia special magistrates’ reports include answers to questionnaire about the general state of the peasantry.


A select committee appointed in March of 1842 “to inquire into the State of the different West India Colonies, in Reference to the existing relations between Employers and Labourers, the Rate of Wages, the Supply of Labour, the System and Expense of Cultivation, and the General State of their Rural and Agricultural Economy.” Other related subjects include plantation technology, tenancy, tariffs/taxes, strikes, sugar, internal improvements, rents, religion, rum, police, provision grounds, land purchase by Black-West Indians, family, culture, medical practice/mortality, marriage, the master/servant relationship, magistrates (local administration of the laws), family, immigration, women’s work, crime, and absenteeism. Documents include the commission’s summary report and recommendations, the proceedings of the select committee, and the verbatim testimony of witnesses from St. Vincent, Trinidad, Barbados, British Guiana, Grenada, Antigua, St. Kitts, and Jamaica. Witnesses were mostly proprietors or estate managers, but others came from across the social spectrum. Supporting correspondence and documents (bills, ordinances, orders in council, and material such as reports submitted to the governor by the managers or owners of particular estates) are also appended. A ninety-four-page alphabetical subject index is included.

179. Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. “Returns on the Number of Immigrants into the British West India Colonies and British Guiana since 1834, and All Votes of Money for Purposes of Immigration, and Annual Expenditure of the Same for the Like Period.” Parliamentary Papers 1843 (136), vol. 33.

Statistical returns for all colonies, broken down by colony, year, sex, immigrants (European), and “Captured Africans.” Good example of occasional returns which have statistical value as they cover period between 1834 and 1842 (exact years vary by colony).


Rich and detailed accounts of the difficult process of repatriating Indian laborers after the lapse of their five-year contracts. Includes accounts of special magistrates’ and Governor Light’s personal interventions in relations between proprietors and Indian workers as well as his admission of the previous “fatal neglect” of Indian workers on the estates of Demerara’s west coast. Offers details on individual workers’ savings upon date of departure for Calcutta as well as disputes over final payments and allowances and reports of Indian men remaining behind, buying land, and marrying local women.


Correspondence concerning the possibility of recruiting Africans to come to British Guiana. Includes Lord Stanley’s circular dispatch to all West Indies Colonies (February 1843) recommending legislation to promote such emigration. Also contains Governor Light’s personal observations of conditions of African immigrants he visited on plantations in Berbice and Demerara and a description of a failed European settlement on the Niger river in west Africa. A letter from Lord Stanley to the Earl of Aberdeen compares the labor situation in Jamaica with that of Barbados, Antigua, St. Christopher, and Trinidad. Stanley counters charges made by the Spanish that the Jamaican colony was forcing Africans from Sierra Leone to become laborers. Also includes instructions for Governor MacDonald of Sierra Leone about future emigration.


Correspondence between Governor FitzRoy and Lord Stanley explaining disturbances as a response to attempts to carry out a census of the rural population. According to Governor FitzRoy, rumors existed among laborers “that the Government intended to reconvert them into slaves.” Reportedly many of those involved were refugees from French
islands, where they had escaped enslavement. Includes detailed accounts of events by Dominica’s President Laidlaw.


Includes special reports from special magistrates concerning the September 1844 disturbances. President Laidlaw also comments on the political nature of the conflict between “emancipated negroes and coloured people” over political rights and rights to property. Describes causes of the disturbances and of the militia’s firing without orders and also gives lists of prisoners and sentences and minutes of trials. Includes a petition from the prisoners to Queen Victoria asking for pardons in which they explain that they thought census was to be used to make them slaves again.


Gives results of the 1844 census—including the troubled Dominican one—for most of the British West Indies. Figures reported by sex, race, ethnicity, occupation, and number of slaves. Completeness varies by colony. There is also a return listing estates and abandoned estates in British Guiana that were purchased by agricultural laborers.


Contains a collection of various special magistrates’ reports for 1844 and 1845 in a number of colonies, with a focus on British Guiana. Includes a report on the “metayer system” (sharecropping) and replies by special magistrates to the British Anti-Slavery Society on “Emancipation in the British Colonies.”

187. Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. “Despatches and Correspondence between the Colonial Office and the Authorities in Each of the West Indian Colonies, Relative to a Proposed Loan of Money in Aid of the Immigration of Labour into those Colonies. Also Resolutions Passed by the Legislative Assemblies of Each
Papers establishing the reintroduction of emigration from India to Jamaica, British Guiana, Trinidad, and St. Lucia. Outlines the number of immigrants for each colony and the amount of British loans for their transport. Includes applications for laborers from various plantations; details of ships carrying immigrants from India to the West Indies; description of reception of Indian workers in Jamaica (1845); and conditions of African workers, including investigations into their efficiency as laborers carried out in Vere and Clarendon Parishes, Jamaica. Trinidad material includes statistics on immigrants for 1844 and 1845 by age, sex, and place of origin. British Guiana correspondence includes initial signs of political crisis in the government over the extension of the Civil List, which occurred at the same time as the immigration loan vote.

188. Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. “Rules Issued by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners dated the 27th Day of October 1843, and Sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Relating to the Immigration of Chinese Labourers from the British Settlements in the Straits of Malacca into the Colonies of Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica. Despatch Addressed by Lord Stanley to the Governor of Jamaica dated the 26th Day of October 1843, Relating to Contracts with Labourers; Despatch Addressed to the Governor of Trinidad, Relative to the Regulations of the Rights of Masters and Servants.” Parliamentary Papers 1846 (323), vol. 27. 20 p.

Dispatch from Gladstone to Governors of the British West Indies on measures for promoting immigration of laborers to the West India colonies. Contains Gladstone’s correspondence with the West India Committee in London regarding the need to reintroduce emigration from East India. Shows the influence of the West India Committee on colonial policy. At first Gladstone agrees to repeal ban on contracts of service with Africans and others from Europe and North America (see Order in Council in [1846 (168), vol. 27]), but this is later rescinded after criticism from Spain that British were continuing the importation of slaves from areas where they had recently been freed. The decision is then reached to reopen emigration from India and the west coast of Africa.

Contains an important statement by Lord Glenelg to the governors of the West Indian colonies (30 January 1836) on the issue of alienation of land to free laborers. Glenelg’s argument concerns the dilemma of how to keep laborers working at the “cultivation of exportable produce” while allowing them the “freedom” to purchase their own land, including the suggestion that each colony should set the price of available Crown land “out of reach of persons without capital.” Provides minimum price guidelines and government notices from colonies respecting these prices. Followed by debate over how to handle squatters on Crown lands.


Contains circulars to governors of the British West Indies from Earl Grey (September 1846–January 1847) outlawing the practice of paying bounty for laborers brought from one colony in the West Indies to work in another. Also discusses “evils experienced from the unsteady habits of certain classes of immigrants,” the number of special magistrates, and the education of laboring classes. Jamaican responses include Major General Berkeley’s correspondence with Gladstone and Earl Grey. Transmits opinion of Jamaican Assembly that Indian emigration is too costly and that Africans should instead be brought from the “Kroo Coast” by British steamships. Governor Light of British Guiana comments on the “moral effect” on Creole laborers of the introduction of coolies; protests from missionaries against an 1846 Employer and Servant Ordinance; half-yearly special magistrates’ reports for 1847; and a report on the workings of the “metayer system” in British Guiana. Trinidad material includes information on immigration of one thousand Indian laborers, Portuguese from Madeira, and Africans from the “Kroo Coast.”


Pleading imminent financial ruin, this London-based group of planters requested differential duties on slave-grown sugar, labor migration to the West Indies, loan guarantees for agricultural improvements, changes in the regulations and duties on rum and rum production, and permission to market their sugar in any convenient form. Memorial dated 25 October 1837.


Includes correspondence from Lord Stanley to Governor Light (31 July 1844) authorizing immigration of Indian laborers into British Guiana. Gives authorized number of workers and cost estimate. Other enclosures give higher estimates and numbers to be sent as well as numbers for Jamaica and Trinidad. Information on subsequent dealings with contractors and shippers are included.

195. Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. “Despatches relating to the Distress prevailing in the West India Colonies and the Mauritius.” Despatches from the Governors of the West India Colonies and Mauritius relative to their General condition, and the Measures in Progress for the Promotion of Immigration; also, of the answers of the Secretary of State to any of the Above Communications.” *Parliamentary Papers*. 1847–48 (399), vol. 45.

Collection of dispatches from governors to the Colonial Office requesting immediate relief, such as the possible raising of duties on their competitors’ sugar. Earl Grey’s response to Governor C. E. Grey of Jamaica is critical of the performance of government and planters since abolition, blaming them for the poor return they receive because production costs and wages remain too high. Remainder of collection contains correspondence on emigration, including Africans from Sierra Leone. Reports on racial tensions between workers, including work stoppages by Creoles in British Guiana. Also includes report on “Coolie” labor in Jamaica containing replies from estates on desertion and vagrancy (1847). Special magistrates’ reports from Tobago, St. Lucia and Montserrat, along with governor’s reports, portray tense labor relations. The crisis, especially
in British Guiana, is attributed to the inability of owners to pay wages due to the collapse of many local and London banks in 1848. The failure of the West India Bank at Nevis is described.


Includes the text of the acts devised in the colonies to regulate labor and living conditions, but which were deemed too harsh by the Colonial Office. Most fall between the years 1836 to 1838, but some are from the 1840s. Indicates the extent to which colonial legislatures went in their attempts to induce more productivity from ex-slaves and immigrants and how a portion of such legislation offended British sensibilities.


Collection shows widespread breakdown in the immigration system with the decline in sugar revenues. Consists primarily of correspondence—including Blue Books and extracts from immigration and special magistrates’ reports—on the inability of colonies to pay for immigrants and requests for emergency loans. Governor Light, of British Guiana, argues in favor of emergency assistance. Governor Light warns that if laborers were to buy up foreclosed farms and plantations, “civilization would not benefit from this change of hands.” Includes texts of legislative meetings in various colonies on the issue of “distress.”

The Jamaican papers include reports concerning disturbances among the workers in August 1848 caused by rumors of annexation to the United States and the general failure of the sugar economy. Governor Grey requests preferential duty treatment as well as British assistance for new emigration. Governor Grey also accuses Baptist ministers of inciting the Black population with threats of slavery from America and Spain. Includes report of disturbances from a number of parishes. Reports on unrelated attacks on tax collectors and on police in St. Mary and St. Ann parishes are also included. Jamaica reports include: general economic statistics for 1847 and 1848; plans for an Island Bank; and an education report (1848). Part II, covering Trinidad, contains political economy statistics, ordinances against squatters, Governor Harris' reports of opposition from squatters, and information on loans for infrastructure, including a railway.


These papers were produced by the committee formed to investigate the grievances of colonists in British Guiana and to report how these grievances might best be resolved. The appendices include the petitions from 1847 to 1849 of proprietors, planters, merchants, and others in the colony outlining these grievances, which concerned the “crisis of emancipation, and that of the removal of protection” at a time when other countries were still producing sugar using slaves. Also included here are the report and proceedings of the committee, the minutes of evidence, a list of appendices and the appendices themselves, an index, and a separate list of subject headings used in the index. Materials date from 9 Sept 1840 to 18 May 1849. The witnesses before the Committee were Sir Henry Light (ex-Governor), Charles Cox (of the Colonial Office), William Robertson Sandbach (former member of the Combined Court), Matthew James Higgins (estate owner), and William Henry Holmes (Provost-Marshal). Primary subjects include the civil list, the franchise, political representation, prisons, plantation management, and immigration.

A resolution dated 27 July 1849 for a commission to be appointed “to inquire on the spot into the means taken for the repression of the late [1848] Insurrection at Ceylon.”

Consists of the committee’s request, dated 31 July 1849, that committee members be reappointed in the following session to continue their investigations into the 1848 Ceylon uprising and its suppression, and that they should have the means to “ensure the attendance” of several key participants.


204. Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. “Copies of the Correspondence Which HasTaken Place Between the Board of Guardians of St. Pancras and the Poor-Law Board, Relative to the Emigration of Children to the Bermudas: And, of Any Correspondence Which Has Been Transmitted by the Children So Sent Out by the Board of Guardians of St. Pancras, as to Their Condition and Prospects in the Bermudas, and Which Has Been Forwarded by the Aforesaid Board of Guardians to the Poor-Law Board.” Parliamentary Papers 1851 (243), vol. 40. 20 p.
Correspondence and attachments concerning an inquiry by the Board of Guardians into the transportation of pauper children from the poor house in the parish of St. Pancras, England, to Bermuda, where they were apprenticed as servants until the age of eighteen. The Poor Law Board determined that the emigration of these children was conducted “with a regard for their welfare” but illegal nonetheless. Correspondence dates from 6 March 1850 to 14 February 1851.

Concerns the political and economic crises in Jamaica between 1852 and 1853. Governor Grey writes to the Colonial Office explaining the politi-
cal stalemate over proposed constitutional reforms and changes in property rights. His letter describes social structure of the island’s politics, including comments on planters and “Coloureds” and Jews. Includes his speeches to the Council and Assembly. Second volume covers transition from Governor Grey to Governor Barkly, including Grey’s instructions to Barkly which sum up the difficulties with the Legislature. Barkly reports on eventual break in the financial stalemate, while the Duke of Newcastle sends a dispatch admonishing Jamaican handling of economy, comparing it with other British West Indian colonies.


Correspondence and related documents dated 17 May 1852 to 30 March 1853 focusing on the “abuses” of British shipmasters and others involved in the emigration of Chinese laborers. Most of the material deals with an uprising of Chinese at Amoy (21–24 November 1852) following the attempt of a British merchant to free a “coolie broker” from a local Chinese police station. The British inquiry into the event focused on the question of whether labor migrations were voluntary or coerced. Includes the “Minutes of Evidence” taken at the local Court of Inquiry from British officials, missionaries, ship employees, merchants, “coolie brokers,” “coolies,” potential Chinese emigrants, and Chinese interpreters. Includes a protest written by local Chinese “Scholars and Merchants” against the entrapment of people by the brokers, as well as a similar proclamation by the local Chinese police promising punishment for such offenders. Though focusing on the China end of the China-West Indies trade, specific shipments of laborers from Amoy to San Francisco (United States), Havana (Cuba), Chincha Island (Peru), and Demerara (British Guiana) are mentioned. Also includes responses of British consuls at various Chinese ports (Shanghai, Ningpo, Canton, and Amoy) regarding the operation of the trade and treatment of the emigrants. Blank labor contracts for Chinese emigrating to Havana and Demerara are included.

207. Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. “Returns of the Names of All Persons, of Every Denomination, Who Were in the Service or Pay of Her Majesty’s Commissioners for Colonial Land and Emigration on the 1st Day of July 1852, with the Amount of Their Salaries, the Date of Their Appointment, and the Hours of
Attendance Each Day: Of the Name and Tonnage of All Vessels or Ships Chartered by the Commissioners, the Owners’ Names, the Price Paid or Agreed To Be Paid for the Conveyance and Victualling Each Statute Adult, and the Number of Statute Adults Taken by Each Ship for the Last Two Years: And, of All Monies Received by the Commissioners under Acts or Votes of Parliament, or from the Sale of Colonial Lands, or from Any Other Source, for the Purpose of Emigration, and How the Same Have from Time to Time Been Disbursed, for the Last Two Years, Being a Continuation of a Return Ordered To Be Printed by the House of Commons, on the 15th Day of August 1850.” *Parliamentary Papers* 1852–53 (23), vol. 68. 22 p.

Includes three tables. The second table deals with New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Van Diemen’s Land, Western Australia, Cape of Good Hope, New Zealand, India to the West Indies, West Indies to India, and Africa and Rio de Janeiro to the West Indies. The third table contains information concerning New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Van Diemen’s Land, New Zealand, Cape of Good Hope, District of Natal, Falkland Islands, Labuan, Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad, as well as “Colonial Remittances (Australia, &c.),” “Liberated African Services,” and “Indian Emigration,” among others.


This collection includes reports on mistreatment of African immigrants in St. Thomas-in-the-East parish, including whipping and refusal to pay wages; cholera outbreak, including medical inspectors report; and disturbances at St. David’s parish and Spanish Town over an election in which a colored candidate lost to a white merchant. Governor Grey reports on the cooperation between Blacks and the colored populations in the election disturbances as evidence of their desire for political influence and power. Also contains dispatch from Earl Grey (February 1851) on Jamaican uses of existing labor supply which criticizes the postabolition system of production and wages. Statistics are included showing the shortage of laborers in various parishes.

Extensive collection on African immigration, imperial loans, and the desperate financial situation of the colony in 1850. Also contains Governor Harris’s account of the riot at Port of Spain (October 1849), which involved the seizure of the government house by the “common people” and then spread to nearby sugar estates. Numerous causes for protest are cited including new prison regulations, cancellation of Sunday markets, rumors of wage reductions, and the removal of squatters. Rumors of new property taxes brought small landowners into the march on Port of Spain. Reports are made of abuses of African immigrants, including accounts by the British Anti-Slavery Society, related to the separation of family members upon arrival in Trinidad. A report on African immigration, including repatriation, is included.


Correspondence and attached documents dated 25 August 1851 to 16 August 1853 between governors of British Guiana and Trinidad, the secretary of state’s office, the emigration agent in China, and the colonial land and emigration commissioners. Documents focus on the attempts made by planters and officials of British Guiana and Trinidad to introduce Chinese laborers into their colonies. Topics addressed include how workers were secured and transported, legal regulation of the traffic by the various governments involved, discussions of the nature of the contract and its terms, and concerns expressed about various uprisings and strikes, as well as assessments of the value of immigrant labor, the immigration of females, and bounties. Includes reports by special magistrates, immigration agents, health officers, and the “Committee of Immigration Correspondence” (a group of planters in British Guiana interested in immigration). Also includes copies of labor contracts and of ordinances passed between 1851 and 1853 concerning immigration and master/servant relations as well as a detailed chronological subject index.

In the wake of the riots in the streets of Amoy in November, 1852 (See 1852–53 [1686], vol. 68), and several other tragedies, these papers document the efforts of the emigration agent in China, the Consul at Canton, the first assistant in the consulate at Amoy, and the governor of British Guiana to figure out whether and under what conditions to continue Chinese emigration. Concerns regarding “the evils resulting from a disparity of the sexes” and the precedent of male communities formed earlier in Australia prompted discussion of the desirability of female emigrants. Marriage and family practices among the Chinese are discussed in detail. Of particular interest is a paper entitled “Marriage, Affinity, and Inheritance in China” and six large charts which map out these relationships. Labor migrations to Chincha Island (Peru) and to Havana are mentioned.

Contains correspondence mainly from Governor Wodehouse to Secretary of State for Colonies H. Labouchere. Wodehouse identifies the instigator of the disturbances of February 1856 as John S. Orr, an anti-Catholic agitator who allegedly worked “to arouse the passions of the black and coloured populations against the Portuguese immigrants.” The looting of Portuguese shops suggests an economic motive for the attack on recently arrived immigrants from Medeira. Includes transcript of John Orr’s trial and accounts from rural and town sources about the extent of rioting and speculations on motives. Information on relations between Africans, Creoles, and Portuguese is provided.
on the Subject of Mortality on Board the ‘Duke of Portland,’ or Any Other British Ships Carrying Emigrants from China.” *Parliamentary Papers 1857 Sess. 1 (147)*, vol. 10. 19 p.

Correspondence and attachments dating from 3 October 1856 to 25 February 1857 concerning the 1856 voyages from Hong Kong to Havana of the *Duke of Portland* and the *John Calvin*. Though the figures vary, as many as 305 out of the 627 immigrants on board these ships died on the passage due to “natural death” and suicide. Contains the investigation into these tragedies by the British Foreign Office, including reports of emigration officials, doctors, and ship personnel. Continued by 1857–58 (521), vol. 43.


217. Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. “Correspondence between the Colonial Department and the Governor of Hong Kong, and between the Colonial Department and the Foreign Office, on the Subject of Emigration from Hong Kong, and from the Chinese Empire to the British West Indies, and to Foreign Countries, and Their Possessions, since the 1st Day of January 1853. Part I.” *Parliamentary Papers 1857–58 (481)*, vol. 43. vii, 84 p.

Correspondence regarding the regulation of emigration from China between the Colonial Department and the governor of Hong Kong and attachments dated 17 May 1853 to 12 April 1858. Includes list of ships bound from Hong Kong between 14 November 1854 and 14 September 1855. Lists numbers of passengers (14,991 total) and their destinations. Abuses on board the *Levant* (a Hawaiian ship), the *Fortuna*, the *Dream* (Macao to Havana), the *Gulnare*, the *Duke of Portland*, and the *John Calvin* are also discussed, with minutes from investigations, letters, depositions, and other supporting documents used in the investigations. Includes a copy of an emigration ordinance. Deals with the British West Indies as well as other destinations for Chinese “coolie” ships, such as Havana.

218. Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. “All Letters Addressed by Members of the West India Committee to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the Subject of Emigration from China to the Colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad, and of Any Documents Connected Therewith; Also, of Any Replies Either from the Colonial Secretary or the Emigration Commissioners.” *Parliamentary Papers 1857–58 (525)*, vol. 41. 17 p.
Correspondence and attachments dated 8 March 1858 to 23 June 1858 concerning the introduction of Chinese laborers into the West Indies by private, rather than governmental, means. Includes instructions of the West India Committee to its agent in China regarding a private contract for the shipment of laborers to British Guiana and Trinidad. Names of planters involved in the venture are included.


Dispatches from the secretary of state and from the governors and lieutenant governors of British Guiana, Jamaica, Trinidad, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Kitts dating from May 1853 to 5 September 1857. Relates to immigration from India, China, Madeira (Portugal), the Cape Verde Islands, and from Panama to the West Indies for the period from 1834 to 1857. Deals with regulating immigration, with the treatment of immigrants, shipboard mortality, the terms of indenture, government and private immigration, the shortage of women, return migration, “coolie children,” and questions of immigration funding. An appendix contains copies of acts and ordinances for each of the colonies between 1853 and 1856. A chronological list of documents by colony, gives the subject of each.


222. Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. “Immigration Loans: Returns, up to the present date of all Loans made by the British Government, or Guaranteed by it to the Several West Indian
Colonies, British Guiana, and Mauritius for immigration purposes.”
Parliamentary Papers 1860 (250), vol. 45.

223. Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. “Correspondence between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Governor in Chief of the Windward Islands, relating to the Recent Riots at St. Vincent’s, and the Proceedings Taken Against the Rioters.”
Accounts of the September 1862 uprisings of laborers and peasants on the island of St. Vincent. Lieutenant Governor Musgrave’s account, along with other reports, provides details of the island-wide uprising. A petition from Barbadian workers involved in the disturbances is included. Charges by the British Anti-Slavery Society of excessive force in putting down the rebellion caused concern in the Colonial Office, prompting the publication of numerous court cases, including witnesses’ testimony. Evidence is given by laborers, estate managers, police, and planters. Testimonies reveal the underlying tensions and complaints, particularly toward Portuguese shopkeepers who were also targets of looters. The Colonial Office intervention resulted in charges brought against a white planter who shot one of his workers.

On 30 December 1865, Edward Cardwell, secretary of state for the colonies, appointed a Royal Commission headed by Sir Henry Knight Storks to investigate “the origin, nature, and circumstances” of the October 1865 revolt of Jamaican blacks and “the Measures adopted in the course of their Suppression.” This compilation of papers consists of documents collected by Governor Eyre to defend his harsh suppression of the rebellion before that committee. The governor rallied support from around the island, asking for, among other things, evidence regarding the scope of the rebellion and of the “disposition” (both political and religious) of the black population before and after the rebellion. The resulting collection of papers includes letters, depositions, and testimony of planters, laborers, Maroons, police officers, local government officials, military officers, and religious leaders. Includes reports (including verbatim testimony) from the trials conducted during the governor’s imposition of martial law. Special emphasis is given to the capture, trial, and execution of George William Gordon, an alleged leader of the rebellion. The papers provide information on the organization of plantation labor before
and after the revolt; revolt-related organizational activities on the part of the rebels; accounts of the rebellion itself; Afro-Jamaican cultural practices, especially religion; and the political inclinations of planters and laborers. Includes lists of rebels tried and executed, flogged, or imprisoned.

Report of the Royal Commission appointed by Secretary of State for the Colonies Edward Cardwell on the October 1865 rebellion of blacks at St. Thomas-in-the-East, Jamaica, and of its suppression by Governor Eyre. The report, dated 9 April 1866, is a companion piece to part II of the commission’s report (see next entry), providing a summary of that evidence and the commission’s assessment of the governor’s conduct. The report provides a synopsis of events relating to the origin and outbreak of the rebellion itself as well as of its suppression, including the dispatch of troops, the proclamation of martial law, the military occupation of and trials at Morant Bay, Monklands, and Manchioneal, the role of the Maroons in the suppression, and a summary of punishments inflicted. Particular attention is given to the trial of George William Gordon, one of the alleged leaders of the revolt who was executed.

This compilation of papers consists of verbatim testimony of the witnesses called before the Royal Commission in the course of their investigation into the rebellion of October 1865 and includes documents presented by these witnesses to support their testimony. The witnesses represent a cross section of society, including Afro-Jamaican laborers employed on plantations (both male and female), planters, and government officials, among others. The testimony of the witnesses relates not only to the rebellion itself, but also to political and social relations in Jamaica (especially with regard to the plantations) for the period preceding and following the rebellion. Includes both table of contents and index arranged by the name of the witness, the day of their testimony, and the page number on which that testimony is found. The appendix, for which there is also a table of contents, consists of supplementary documents collected by the commission relating to the rebellion and its suppression. This appendix includes printed copies of correspondence by
Paul Bogle and George William Gordon, the former a principal author of the rebellion and the latter an alleged leader. Also includes copies of military orders and documents created by the military in the course of the suppression, lists of people executed at Morant Bay, Blue Mountain Valley, Port Antonio and Manchioneal, Plantain Garden River District, and Up-Park Camp during the period of martial law, and documents concerning the courts-martial of William Grant, George McIntosh, Samuel Clarke, and the case of George William Gordon. Also contains specific information on the division of labor and payment of wages on the Hordley, Golden Grove, Coley, and St. Jago estates in the Plantain Garden River district, Blue Mountain Valley, and the parish of Clarendon for 1864 and 1865.


Collection concerns allegations made against Baptist ministers about their alleged role in fostering the Morant Bay rebellion. The publication in the local press of a letter by Dr. Underhill, critical of Jamaica’s political and social discrimination, was allegedly used by Baptist ministers to help incite the uprising. Allegations and rebuttals concerning Baptists include texts of sermons on such topics as “Suitable Dwellings to the Cultivation of Family Religion” as well as a discussion of the role of African-American Baptist ministers in Jamaica. See also [1866 (3595) vol. 51] which contains Dr. Underhill’s letter and more discussion of the “distress of the coloured population” prior to the rebellion.


Case involves accusations made by George William Gordon, a local magistrate before the Morant Bay Rebellion, about the ill-treatment of prisoners in the “lock-up” at Morant Bay, which was used both for criminals and debtors. Prisoners were forced to clean out a cesspool and to live in unsanitary conditions. On finding the conditions different from those described by Mr. Gordon, a commission of magistrates subsequently found Gordon unfit to continue as a magistrate in St. Thomas-in-the-East. Contains Gordon’s letter and his testimony to the commission.


Contains a report (July 1869) written by Patrick Keenan under the orders of the colonial secretary. Report provides historical background on education on the Island, including census data broken down by race and religion from the time of abolition of slavery. Keenan visited over eighty schools and recommended the creation of non-denominational primary and secondary schools run by a state-appointed Board of Education. Includes Keenan’s own observations on the lack of morality among the Creole population and the need to incorporate religious education in the curriculum. Report contributed to the Education Ordinance of 1870, which established the state-run Royal College.

Contains correspondence dated 10 April 1869 to 29 April 1871 between the Colonial Office and island officials of Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica, Virgin Islands, and Montserrat regarding the 1871 Federation of the Leeward Islands. The correspondence relates the political, economic, and social issues relevant to confederation (e.g., education, taxation, commerce, and the penal system), as well as information regarding the political process by which confederation was passed. Includes contents list indicating the dates of each piece of correspondence as well as the names of the authors and recipients. Includes table entitled “Analysis of Votes on Federation,” which is organized by island.

This commission was ordered by Governor Scott in response to allegations made by an ex-special magistrate in Demerara, Mr. Des Voeux, concerning disturbances at sugar plantations involving Chinese, African, and Indian laborers. The subsequent commission’s report (23 February 1871) includes testimony taken during visits to estates from forty-six witnesses, including laborers. Appendix II includes details for fifty-five plantations in Demerara, Berbices, and Essequibo. Written evidence includes special magistrates’ reports, annual reports of inspectors of estates, and statistical returns on individual estates. Report is excellent source for political economy of sugar estates and descriptions of living and working conditions for Chinese, Indian, and African immigrant laborers. Includes discussion of intermarriage.


Letter of Governor Scott of British Guiana to earl of Kimberely (7 October 1872) describes the initial reports of an incident at an estate on the Essequibo coast. The incident allegedly involved two hundred Indian laborers and twenty-four police, with five Indians killed and nine wounded. The disturbance allegedly originated in complaints of low pay and overwork under compulsion. Further investigations include details of similar complaints about working and living conditions on nearby sugar estates. Includes summaries of Indian complaints and testimonies.

236. Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. “Returns of the Number and Names of the Ships Employed in Conveying Coolies from India and China to the West Indies since the First Day of January 1872 to the Present Date: and, of the Number of Coolies Taken in These Vessels, the Number of Deaths Which Occurred during the Passage, and the Number of Medical Officers, Qualified and Unqualified, in Whose Medical Charge the Coolies Were Placed on Leaving the Port of Embarkation, and How Many of These Have Been Entered on the Articles of the Ship.” Parliamentary Papers 1874 (C. 293), vol. 44. 4 p.
Includes information regarding ships involved in the transport of workers from India and China to Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana, and Nevis that sailed from January 1872 through mid-December 1873.


Correspondence and enclosures dated 31 January 1874 to 22 March 1875 between British and Portuguese government officials at Hong Kong, Macao, Canton, and Portugal. Subjects include the passage of an ordinance at Macao to ensure free instead of forced emigration, the skeptical response of the British, and the subsequent closing of the port of Macao to free emigration. Included are a copy of the Macao passenger regulations and a table of “coolie” ships bound out from the ports of Hong Kong, Amoy, Swatow, and Macao and bound to Callao (Peru), Peru, San Francisco (United States), Havana (Cuba), Sydney (Australia), Pondicherry (India), and Demerara (British Guiana) on which mutinies or disasters occurred between 1845 to 1872.

Between 18 and 22 April 1876, laborers throughout the island allegedly plundered as many as eighty-nine estates, reportedly in groups of between 250 and 1,500 persons. The Barbados House of Assembly passed a unanimous resolution to petition for a royal commission of inquiry. The resolution further called for the recall of the governor and certain members of the Executive Council in the event that the inquiry proved that the governor’s conduct in promoting a confederation was unconstitutional. Much of the evidence in these documents focuses on the question of whether these were “potato riots” or protests over confederation. Papers reflect the actions and opinions of the colonial officials, the Colonial Office, the West India Committee, the Barbados Defence Association (a group of landed proprietors and small shopkeepers formed to resist confederation), police, and artisans, as well as the colony’s laborers. The records relate to the debates in assembly, events surrounding public meetings formed throughout the island in response to the pro-
posed federation (especially those of the Defence Association), the responses of Barbadian laborers, the trial of several supposed “ringleaders,” and the investigations themselves. Among the social and political issues discussed are the nature of the existing constitution and treasury, wages and conditions of plantation labor in the sugar industry, emigration and immigration, the military, the penal system, taxation, education, and public works. This volume contains correspondence and papers dated 8 September 1871 to 15 May 1876. Further papers can be found in 1876 [C. 1559], vol. 53; 1877 [C. 1679], vol. 61; 1877 [C. 1687], vol. 61. Each of the four documents includes tables of contents that briefly describe the subjects of the correspondence and papers, their dates, and the names of either the author or recipient.


Correspondence and papers dated 8 September 1871 to 15 May 1876, regarding the attempts of the Colonial Office and the governor of Barbados to federate the Windward Islands and the response of the residents of Barbados to these attempts. Includes information on the actions and opinions of the Earl of Carnarvon, Acting Governor Sanford Freeling, Governor J. Pope Hennessy, the West India Committee, and the Barbados Defence Association. The records relate to the debates in the Assembly, events surrounding public meetings formed throughout the island in response to federation, cane burnings, riots, wages, and conditions of plantation labor in the sugar industry, emigration and immigration, the military, the penal system, taxation, education, and public works. Includes table of contents that briefly describes the subjects of the correspondence and papers, their dates, and the names of either the author or recipient.


Material dated 11 April 1876 to 5 July 1876. For further papers see 1877 [C. 1679], vol. 61 and 1877 [C. 1687], vol. 61.

242. Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. “Return of the Number of Coolies, of the Money Expended on Immigration, together with Particulars as to certain Taxes, for the Islands of St. Vincent, West Indies, during the Fifteen Years since the Origination of the
Immigration Fund in that Island.” *Parliamentary Papers 1876* (C. 249), vol. 53.

   
   Material dated 14 January 1876 to 10 August 1876. For previous and subsequent reports see 1876 (C. 1539), vol. 53; 1876 (C. 1559), vol. 53; and 1877 (C. 1687), vol. 61.

   
   Material dated 1 March 1876 to 29 September 1876. For previous and subsequent reports see 1876 (C. 1539), vol. 53; 1876 (C. 1559), vol. 53; and 1877 (C. 1679), vol. 61.

   
   Correspondence dated 9 March 1876 to 2 February 1877 between the Foreign Office and the West India Committee (a London-based group of planters and others with a financial stake in the West Indies) concerning the Brussels Sugar Convention of 1875 and the continental conference on sugar which met in Paris in 1876. Reflects committee’s desire to secure international free trade in sugar.

246. Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. “Memorial Signed in the British West Indies on the Sugar Bounty Question, and Presented to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 8th Day of May 1878, together with the Copy of Statement Which Was Read to Him on that Occasion on Behalf of the Deputation: and of Any Memorials from the Sugar Trade, Chambers of Commerce, or Any Other Public Body, on the Same Subject, with Any Correspondence Relating Thereto.” *Parliamentary Papers 1878* (C. 395), vol. 68. 6 p.
   
   The petitioners include planters, merchants, clergymen, district medical officers, schoolmasters, tradesmen, and others who desired the elimination of bounties by their foreign competitors (France, Belgium, Holland, Austria, and Russia) in the sugar trade.


Correspondence and enclosures dated 16 November 1877 to 25 January 1878 between the Colonial Office, the Barbados Legislative Council, and the House of Assembly. The Colonial Office urged constitutional and administrative reform to extend representation.

251. Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. “Correspondence Relating to a Memorial or Memorials Received from Jamaica Setting Forth the Grievances Which Have Arisen under the System of Crown Government in that Island, with the Prayer or Prayers of Such Memorials, and the Number of Signatures Attached Thereto.” Parliamentary Papers 1881 (C. 425), vol. 65. 16 p.

About twenty-five hundred people signed this memorial, which was put together by the Jamaica Association to protest Crown colony government, including the denial of political representation, which the memorial blamed for financial mismanagement. Includes additional correspondence between the Association, the Colonial Office, and the governor of Jamaica, dated 20 November 1876 to 14 June 1877.

The royal commissioners were Colonel William Crossman and George Smyth Baden-Powell. Each of parts I, II, and III (also see 1884 [C. 3840-I] [C. 3840 II], vol. 46, for parts II and III), consist of the commission’s report dealing with “debt and liabilities,” “civil establishments and other expenditure,” and “revenue and the mode of raising it.” The report is followed by a digest of evidence taken formally and informally as well as documents (such as letters and petitions) laid before the commission. Evidence was taken from “all classes,” according to the commissioners and touches on aspects of government expense and revenue including elementary schools, poor relief, labor immigration, government employees and their salaries, imports and exports, and agricultural production. Cumulative imports and exports are listed for the previous thirty-year period. Part I has table, “Profits of Provision Grounds, Jamaica.” Also see part IV [C. 3840-III], vol. 46, for supplementary remarks.


See 1884 (C. 3840), (C. 3840-II), (C. 3840-III), vol. 46, for the remaining regular and supplementary reports and evidence.


Commissioners visited Tortola, Virgin Gorda, St. Christopher, Nevis, Montserrat, and Dominica. See 1884 (C. 3840), vol. 46.


Continues discussions in parts I–III concerning debt, expenditure, and liability in the colonies. Includes section entitled “Capital and Labor;
which includes a discussion of the labor supply in the islands. The appendix includes a chart entitled “Comparative Account of Tropical Colonies.—English and Foreign,” which discusses the British West Indian colonies, Bermuda, Ceylon, Fiji, Mauritius, Martinique, Guadeloupe and dependencies, St. Thomas, St. Croix, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. Includes figures on size, population, government expenditure, imports and exports, revenue and import duties. See 1884 [C. 3840], [C. 3840-I], and [C. 3840-II], vol. 46, for the reports and evidence.


Correspondence and attachments between the governor and the Colonial Office. Attachments include petition signed by 4,677 Jamaicans complaining of their “political disabilities.” The forthcoming report of the Royal Commission on the franchise is discussed. Continued by 1884 [C. 4140], vol. 55.


Includes petitions for an expanded electorate and a more representative Legislative Assembly. Also includes recommendations of the Royal Commission established to consider the idea of a new Jamaican Constitution and from George Stieble on education and property requirements for voters. Stieble gives statistics about race, arguing that double requirements would discriminate. The subsequent Order in Council (19 May 1884) on the new Jamaican constitution is included. Statistics on number of voters in each parish added after changes in qualifications are also included. See 1884 [C. 3854], vol. 55 for additional petitions and requests for an expanded Jamaican electorate.


Continues 1884 [C. 3854], vol. 55. Correspondence between colonial officials and attachments dated 11 January 1884 to 30 June 1884. Includes resolutions and protests passed at several public meetings re-
questing more popular representation on the Legislative Council and the report of the Franchise Commission dated 7 February 1884.

Investigation into shooting of Indian male workers by police during the “Hosein [sic] Festival” (30 October 1884) in San Fernando, N aparima District. Details of the 107 wounded and killed, giving names, estates, age, and nature of wounds. Testimony of numerous participants in the religious festival, which had been banned by the colonial government. Evidence reveals aspects of relations between Indians (Hindus and Muslims), Indians and Creoles, free and indentured laborers, as well as between workers and government administration. Detailed descriptions of events by participants and police.

Correspondence and enclosures dated 6 May 1884 to 4 June 1885 between colonial officials and the Colonial Office concerning the creation of the Federation of the Windward Islands. Includes protests against confederation and discussions of various forms of colonial governance. The Orders in Council and the Letters Patent for the new federation are reprinted. Table of contents.

Texts of treaties and agreements dated 29 August 1842 to 6 May 1886.


Letter dated 9 September 1891 from the lieutenant governor of British Guiana to Lord Knutsford, along with returns which provide a demographic breakdown of Indian and Chinese laborers in British Guiana as well as the rate of wages on sugar estates. See also “Returns . . . Trinidad,” 1892 Sess. 1 (26), vol. 56.


Correspondence dated 8 August 1892 to 31 January 1893. Includes the Queen’s Order in Council making changes to the Legislative Council, including the substitution of the governor for a president nominated by the Crown.


Report by Sir Hamilton (10 March 1894), commissioned to investigate the social and political crises on the island. Hamilton gives brief history of the island, including discussion of rebellions, labor, coffee and sugar cultivation, finance, taxation, and politics. Includes summary of oral evidence taken in Roseau and seven rural centers. Written evidence, including that of Dr. H. A. Nicholls, medical officer of public institutions, provides discussion of labor grievances and “racial prejudices.”


Correspondence and attachments (including petitions and memorials, ordinances, and financial documents) between the colonial governors, the colonial office, planters, planters’ associations, agricultural organizations, and others with a stake in the colonial sugar industry, complaining of their desperate financial condition and discussing methods used and proposed for their improvement. Material is arranged chronologically, including by colony British Guiana, Trinidad, the Leeward Islands.
(Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis), Barbados, the Windward Islands (St. Lucia and St. Vincent), and Jamaica. Final section includes documents ordering the formation of the Norman Commission and outlining its tasks (see below). Includes table of contents and documents dated from 13 September 1894 to 12 January 1897.


Contains the verbatim minutes of the proceedings held by the Norman Commission in London prior to its departure for the West Indies. Commissioners interviewed the chairman of the West India Committee, the chairman of the Colonial Bank, merchants, owners, and managers of West Indian estates, officials from the Board of Trade and the Board of Inland Revenue, sugar refiners in England, sugar brokers, government officials from the West Indies, an owner of gold mines in British Guiana, as well as an estate manager and an estate owner from Queensland. Documents prepared for the commission by witnesses are also included. A few provide data on sugar production in places outside the West Indies, including Germany, Egypt, Queensland, Mauritius, and the United States. For the remaining volumes of the report, see below.


Contains the minutes of proceedings and evidence collected by the Norman Commission during its investigations in British Guiana, Barbados, Trinidad, and Tobago. Witnesses include planters, plantation managers and overseers, estate attorneys and engineers, agricultural laborers, a small tobacco farmer, agricultural scientists, government officials (including special magistrates), doctors, merchants, newspaper editors, professors, barristers, clergymen, and tradesmen. Societies of agriculturalists and merchants are also represented. Includes a foldout map of British Guiana focused on gold mining and logging. For the remaining volumes of the report see below.

to XIII. Proceedings, Evidence, and Documents Relating to the Windward Islands, the Leeward Islands, and Jamaica.” *Parliamentary Papers* 1898 (C. 8669), vol. 51. 430 p.

Further minutes of proceedings and evidence collected by the Norman Commission during its investigations in the Windward Islands, the Leeward Islands, and Jamaica. Witnesses include planters, plantation managers and overseers, estate attorneys, agricultural laborers, peasant proprietors, agricultural scientists, government officials, merchants, newspaper editors, school officials, a professor, an engineer, a foundry owner, barristers, clergymen, and tradesmen. For partial index to the report, see below.


Arranged by colony, then by the name of the witness, with a list of the subjects addressed in the testimony of each witness. Can be used as an index to the Norman Commission Report. See 1898 [C. 8655], [C. 8656], [C. 8657], vol. 50, and 1898 [C. 8669], vol. 51.


Correspondence concerns the burning of the Government House and subsequent killings of unarmed protesters by police on 23 March 1903. The protest was allegedly prompted by an attempt to charge residents for water through a meter system. Members of the Ratepayers Association were apparently joined by members of the colored population of the city in the protest. Governor Moloney contends that the disturbance was caused by agitation for representative government. Lists of killed and wounded include men and women. The commission’s findings (1903 [Cd. 1662], vol. 44) give a detailed narrative of events, including the estimates of four to five thousand protestors and the firing of 471 rounds of ammunition by the police. A further investigation (1904 [Cd. 1988], vol. 60) by the chief justice of British Guiana recommended bringing charges against police.


Correspondence from Governor Sir Hodgson (1905) reporting series of “disturbances” involving “wharf labourers” and shooting of rioters by police. Includes information on a general strike of casual laborers (both black and Creole) on the wharfs and details of casualties. Reports enclosed on effect of strike in Georgetown and on “negro labourers” on the nearby sugar estates. Includes petition signed by 5,750 people protesting economic conditions, treatment by police during riots, the settlement of the strike, court hearings and punishments. Also includes petition against more state-aided immigration of Indian laborers. Statistics compare land held by blacks to land held by Indians. Includes reports from immigration agents on the labor market, wages, and relations between Creole, Indian, and African workers. See also “Further Correspondences relating to Disturbances” (1906 [Cd. 3026], vol. 77) which includes newspaper accounts of growing opposition to immigrant labor and lingering tensions between African and Indian labor.


Lists titles and dates of laws, acts, and ordinances by colony from 1864 through 1907.


Includes text of the contract from employment of British West Indian workers by the Isthmian Canal Commission of the United States (June 1907). Contract stipulates payment of ten cents U.S. currency per hour
plus medical attention and living quarters. Laborers are to provide bedding and food. Also includes dispatches from the British minister in Panama with statistics, including wages, remittances, and “deaths per 1000 of Coloured Employees” from each British West Indian Colony. Majority of British West Indian workers were from Barbados, Trinidad, and Jamaica.


The 107-page report (26 April 1910) examines the future and history of emigration from India to British West Indies. Recommends future emigration to British Guiana and Trinidad and to a lesser extent Jamaica. Combined with 5193, in the same volume, includes over five hundred pages of evidence provided by eighty-three witnesses, including members of the West India Committee in London, academics, church representatives, colonial opponents to further immigration, and one Indian barrister raised in Trinidad. Evidence contains information on savings and remittances of Indians and discussion of conditions of labor for Indian women in British Guiana and Trinidad. Particularly valuable information on state of Indian laborers from 1906 to 1910.


A summary of the activities of the Imperial Department of Agriculture from its creation in 1898 to 1911. This is an update of an 1883 report by Morris entitled “Planting Industries in the West Indies,” [C. 3794] focused on the effects of “scientific agriculture” on the region and the department’s efforts concerning sugar (including the establishment of central sugar factories), cacao, rice, tobacco, cotton, limes, and rubber. Also outlines the department’s efforts to promote the distribution of experimental plants and in agricultural education in primary and secondary schools.


This paper describes the operations and administration of the Roads and Land Settlement Fund in St. Vincent from 1898 to 1911. Administra-
tion of the fund involved the purchase of estate land by the colonial government through an imperial grant-in-aid and the resale of that land, in parcels as small as one acre, to peasant proprietors. Proprietors were to manage their land in accordance with government instructions, to live on the land for sixteen years, and to comply with the repayment terms for any government loans they received, or forfeit without appeal the allotment, all crops and all payments made. Town house lots were also made available through this plan. Appendices A and B are statements of revenue and of expenditure, respectively, for the local administration of the plan. Appendix C shows the “Number of Lots disposed of on each Estate, together with the Acreage and Date and Total Cost of Acquisition.” Includes map of St. Vincent.


Report commissioned by Indian government to investigate health, housing, working conditions, wages, administration of justice, freedom of movement, relations between employers and laborers, marriage, religious rights, repatriation, and position of free Indians in Trinidad and British Guiana. The investigation was a response to complaints of excessive numbers of prosecutions of Indian laborers. The investigators traveled from India and visited several estates and labor settlements in each colony. Includes account of disturbance in Berbice, British Guiana, in which an Indian laborer was convicted for the killing of a police officer. Valuable source for economic situation of Indians, both indentured and free. Also contains statistics on property owned by Indians over period between 1890 and 1913 in British Guiana, population statistics, savings, and repatriation.


Report by James McNeill contains a forty-three-page report on Indian laborers in Jamaica, covering topics including housing, health, working conditions, justice, relations between employers and laborers, repatriation, “Free Indians,” and education. Contains a collection of statistics on
wages broken down by name of worker, employer, sex, and plantation. Also lists complaints against laborers between 1910 and 1912 and occupations of “free Indians.”


Report of a three-member commission that visited British Guiana in November 1927 to investigate economic conditions. Report covers topics including finance, agriculture, interior regions, population, immigration, health, constitution, and education. Gives budget deficits in period between 1921 and 1927 and population statistics from 1911 and 1921 census. Recommendations for development involve exploitation of the interior and use of financial resources to recruit labor from elsewhere in British West Indies rather than India or Africa.


Commission established in 1929 to examine the causes of depression in the sugar industry and possible measures to relieve it including the possibility of moving laborers to new settlements. The interim report recommends rationalization of British buying and selling of sugar, and the final report gives account of the effects of the world depression in the British West Indies. Examines labor conditions, describing poverty and living conditions on sugar estates. Recommends improvements in housing and the establishment of peasant farming to help ensure stability of work force.

Covers emergency assistance to the sugar industry in the British West Indian colonies. Provides details of budgets and costs of production and shipping. Also includes budgetary items for improvement of laborers’ living conditions on estates, according to recommendations of the Sugar Commission (see 1929–30 [Cmd. 3517], vol. 8). Detailed descriptions are given of unemployment in sugar industry for each colony.


The report, known properly as the “Moyne Commission Report,” was submitted in 1939 but was not issued because of outbreak of World War II. Includes historical data from pre-1930 period. Links current poverty and political crises to the history of slavery and immigration of laborers. Gives population statistics for 1896, 1921, and 1936 as well as information on birth rates and agricultural product values. Also includes sections on colonial administration, the status of women, and East Indians.

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**SECONDARY SOURCES**


Describes the transformation in the sources and uses of labor following emancipation in British Guiana. Political control of the state by sugar plantation owners resulted in legislation beneficial to planters in a number of areas including the control and regulation of Creole labor; the control of the former slave peasantry; the immigration of workers from Madras and Calcutta; the development of the indenture contract system; and the control of the state’s fiscal policy to assist sugar plantations. Discusses how the sugar industry’s monopoly of power permitted profitability in Guiana well into the nineteenth century at high cost to laborers and to the development of other areas of the local economy.

A collection of essays, mostly on the period from 1860 to 1914, examining sugar diplomacy, the political economy of sugar, labor relations, and the effects of both slavery and emancipation in places such as Russia, Germany, the Balkans, British West Indies, Brazil, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Argentina, Mexico, Peru, Egypt, the Portuguese Empire, Natal, and Hawaii.

Investigates attitudes of middle-class Jamaicans during the 1960s towards issues of race, class, and gender identity. Based on a series of lengthy interviews with eleven middle-class Jamaican informants collected between 1967 and 1969. Author explores views on kinship, affinity, illegitimacy, the role of male in the family, race, class, and status. Considers the middle-class “myth of origin” that locates the beginnings of this class in the nonlegal union of white male masters and slave women of African descent.


Examines the development of a Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) branch in British Honduras against the backdrop of racial tensions between Blacks, Metizos, Creoles, and whites. Based on Colonial Office records and local newspaper accounts. Discusses the political role of the UNIA including description of a July 1921 visit by Marcus Garvey. Considers how the UNIA functioned as a multiracial political organization in the 1920s but was subsequently eclipsed by new forms of class and race politics during the nationalist period of the 1950s.

Describes the history of the Jewish population in Jamaica. Argues that prior to the 1870s Jews were viewed by the white population as a distinct group but that they became increasingly assimilated with the white
elite following the 1865 rebellion. By 1914, many Jews had merged with the white elite.

Examines continuities in Jamaican workers’ protest as exemplified by the 1831 “Baptist War,” the 1865 Morant Bay Rebellion, and the labor rebellion of 1938. Examines the social history of Jamaican workers including the expression of workers’ demands through a “religious idiom” and their appeals to the British Crown as a potential source of fair treatment and justice. Includes accounts of Alexander Bustamante’s ideology and use of religion in his speeches during the events between 1937 and 1938.

Investigates the career of James Stephen, an important British Colonial Office official who served as legal counsel, assistant under-secretary, and permanent under-secretary to the Colonial Office. Emphasizes Stephen’s ideas about the role of the “Black race” within the British colonial system. Details his family’s strong link to missionary work in Sierra Leone and the influence of this link on his attitudes towards the ending of slavery and the apprenticeship system in the British West Indies. Includes quotations from Stephen’s writings.

Discusses the political economy of Barbados from emancipation to the 1980s with special attention to the position of elite property owners’ responses to challenges from former slaves, workers, and peasants. Discusses the importance of land shortages and the planters’ response to the sugar crisis of the 1880s and early 1900s. Includes a discussion of the 1930 riots and their aftermath.

Examines the campaign by organized labor in Trinidad to persuade the Colonial Office, the Trinidad government, and employers to recognize their demands for new labor laws and the negotiations between the Colonial Office and the Trinidad government over labor. Discusses the role of the British Trade Union Congress, the Labour Party’s Fabian
Colonial Bureau, and the International Labor Organization as well as the demands, protests, and organization of major Trinidadian labor organizations, including A. A. Cipriani’s Trinidad Workingman’s association, the East Indian National Association, the Trinidad and Tobago Trades Union Council, and the Trinidad Labour Party. Presents data on sugar estate wages for the 1930s as well as a bibliography of primary and secondary sources.


Analyzes the role of the British Labour Party and trade union leaders in trade union activity in Trinidad during the 1930s, including the activities of A. A. Cipriani, W. Arthur Lewis, and Susan Lawrence. Based primarily on Colonial Office records.


Institutional history of the sugar industry in the British West Indies from 1854 to 1903. Includes discussion of the transfer of estates from bankrupt owners to solvent owners and the role of the Encumbered Estates Court in that process. Discusses production and economic performance of the major sugar producing colonies during and following the U.S. Civil War as well as evidence of increased concentration of property as the U.S. market developed. Also includes sections on sugar cane cultivation and labor and wage issues. Concludes with a discussion of competition between beet sugar and West Indian cane, and the end of prosperity for West Indian cane planters.


A comparative history of plantation societies in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa. Examines the role of European capital in the formation of plantation economies in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Considers the transformation of plantation labor and society following emancipation and the emergence of distinctions by race, caste, and class in Jamaica and elsewhere in the British West Indies.

Essays on emancipatory struggles and movements from the late eighteenth century through the present in the Caribbean including Saint Domingue (and Haiti), Cuba, Jamaica, Martinique, Guadeloupe, the Bahamas, Trinidad, British Guiana, Barbados, Grenada, and Puerto Rico. Themes include planter-peasant relations, indentured labor, popular revolts, women and gender, the labor movement, the sugar industry, and nationalist and socialist movements.


A microstudy of life on a Barbadian sugar plantation, including the transition from slave to apprenticed labor. The eight-hundred-acre Codrington plantations were bequeathed in 1710 to the Society for Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The day-to-day details of the estate were recorded and sent to the Society in London, creating a useful record of plantation life. Major themes discussed include the development of abolitionist thought within the Society and its impact on the running of a slave plantation; the period of “amelioration” (1793–1823), which saw attempts to improve living and working conditions of slaves; and the experiences of former slaves as apprentices in the immediate postemancipation period from 1834 to 1838. During this latter period, the Society experimented with an “allotment system,” providing former slaves land in order to entice them to remain working on the estate.


Describes the impact of the Great Depression on the Jamaican economy. Compares the Jamaican economy prior to the 1930s with those of Latin American countries and explores the impact of colonialism on industrialization. Includes tables comparing the economic performance of Latin American countries and Jamaica.

Ethnography of Martha Brae, a rural Jamaican village in Trelawny Parish. Based on ethnographic fieldwork carried out from 1969 to 1978. Explores indigenous forms of land tenure, particularly the institution of “family land” as practiced among the population of nearly eight hundred in the village. Explores the relationship of “family land” to African and European land tenure traditions and suggests a comparative framework for understanding rural land tenure practices in the Caribbean. Includes a historical study of land practices in Trelawny in the 1830s and 1840s following emancipation. Includes additional references for Caribbean land tenure history.


Discusses land tenure, land transfer, and inheritance in the Caribbean. Considers the relationship between land tenure and migration. The author’s own work on the concept of “family land” operative in rural Jamaica is used to suggest a more complex typology of land tenure that accounts for the absence of individuals from the rural home as the Jamaican economy has historically created the need for migration to urban areas or overseas for work. Extensive references are included.


A collection of essays that consider traditional attitudes toward land, the effect of more recent political and economic changes on these attitudes, and conflicts surrounding rural development. Includes essays on Guyana, Barbados, Jamaica, the Bahamas, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Grenada as well as Nevis and Barbuda.

A history of land use, the development of the timber industry, and the creation of a peasantry following emancipation in Belize. Using Colonial Office records the authors trace white settler land use and struggles over labor and land in the postemancipation period from 1831 to 1871. Topics covered for the postemancipation period include the growth of commercial agriculture, the monopolization of freehold land, immigration of former slaves from other areas of the Caribbean, and the dispossession of the Maya, Carib, and African populations. Appendices include timber and sugar export data, distribution of freehold land, and acreage of cane on estates with steam machinery in 1868.


Examination of “creole society” theories and their importance in both Caribbean history and Caribbean historiography.


Consideration of relations between planters and laborers after emancipation with a focus on Belize.


Analysis of strategies used by employers and the state to control laborers in Belize following the end of the apprenticeship system in 1838. Includes discussion of the mahogany trade. Based on records from the British Colonial Office and Belize.

History of Belize from conquest and settlement to the establishment of crown colony rule in 1871. Discusses the transition from slavery to free labor and the efforts to limit the growth of a peasantry after emancipation. Considers the roles of Maya, Black ‘Caribs,’ Creoles, and migrants from China, South Asia, and elsewhere in the Caribbean in plantation labor following the end of slavery.


Discusses the Christmas Rebellion in Jamaica (1831–32), creolization, and Creole identity in the postemancipation period.


History of the social and economic conditions of Trinidadian society in the last three decades of the nineteenth century including relations between the Creole population, white elite, rural black population, and Indians. Describes class formation, education, and social mobility among the island’s Creoles and the development of a racially divided society. Includes discussion of carnival and “drum dances” in the late nineteenth century.


Investigates how Afro-Jamaican women born in the immediate postemancipation period (1861–1900) perceived the economic role of men in their lives as independent farmers. Based on the life-histories of four women born in 1861, 1875, 1887, and 1900, respectively.

Considers race and class and distinctions following emancipation in the contexts of law; religion; marriage and family; childhood, youth, and education; health and poor relief; and leisure.


History of the apprenticeship system in the British West Indies. Includes detailed chapters on special magistrates—colonial officials who were given the responsibility for overseeing the smooth running of the apprenticeship system and checking abuses by employers. Discusses careers of the Marquis of Sligo and Lionel Brown as governors of Jamaica during the apprenticeship period.


Considers the creation of representative government in Jamaica in 1884 including franchise requirements and the role of immigration from India as an election issue.


Examines the contribution of slave women to labor protest and resistance throughout the British West Indies, including discussion of their roles in both the plantation and informal economies and in family and community life.


History of the effects of British payments to former slaveowners in compensation for abolition on the development of Barbados and Jamaica. Focused on the period 1823 to 1843, the book examines planter indebtedness, the availability of credit, and the impact of compensation payments on the value of plantation land, access of former slaves to land, and role of white women as creditors and plantation owners. Based mainly on records from large-scale plantations employing fifty slaves or more, including compensation records, deed of land sales or mortgages, attorney and merchant letter books, and the records of the colonial courts of chancery.


History of the Free Coloreds of Jamaica from the early nineteenth century to the Morant Bay rebellion in 1865. Focuses on their role in the Jamaican Legislative Assembly from the time of their enfranchisement in 1830 until their decisive contribution to the defeat of the 1865 Constitution. Considers role of Free Coloreds as mediators between the majority population of ex-slaves and the ruling white elite. Provides a partially annotated bibliography of primary and secondary sources.


Edited collection including case studies of Trinidad, Haiti, Jamaica, Barbuda, Surinam, Barbados, and Martinique.


Examines the political history of Jamaica, including both elite and working-class politics, in the two decades prior to the 1938 labor strikes. Considers organizations such as the National Reform Association, the People’s National Party, Garvey’s United Negro Improvement Association, and the Bustamante Industrial Trades Union. Also includes a detailed section of the Jamaican press during the period. Includes photos of many national and trade union leaders.


Describes the transfer of specific powers in the 1850s from the Colonial Office in London to the colonies. Includes a discussion of diplomacy between the French and the British over recruitment of South Asian and African laborers after emancipation. Includes appendix with a select list of colonial governors, with brief biographical sketches.

Examines the “Guerre Negre” of June 1844. The week-long armed protest focused on the taking of a census, which some former slaves perceived as a step towards their re-enslavement. Based primarily on British Colonial Office records and the *British Parliamentary Papers*.


Describes the work and living conditions of tenant contract laborers in Barbados. Considers the Barbados plantation tenantry system, in which contract laborers rented land on an employer’s estate and promised to work exclusively for the landowner. Based on interviews with contract workers, most of whom were born in the early twentieth century and grew up in the plantation tenantry system prior to its repeal in 1937.


Describes how protests in Georgetown spread to the nearby sugar estates in Demerara in February of 1856. Discusses role of John Sayers Orr, a Creole born in Georgetown, who allegedly sparked the 1856 disturbances.


A detailed history of the trade union movement in Guyana. The author, who served as general secretary of the British Guiana Labour Union and helped found the People’s Progressive Party, provides details of the formation of trade unions on the sugar plantations and in urban areas. Describes early attempts at labor organizing and strikes by sugar workers and dockworkers in response to government labor laws. Outlines the growth of trade unions after World War I and the subsequent formation of the People’s Progressive Party. Also includes details on Pan-African and Pan-West Indian labor and political organization. An appendix provides names and relevant dates of 120 trade unions formed between 1922 and 1962.

Examines the spatial, demographic, and economic growth of Kingston, Jamaica. Divides discussion between the period of slavery (1692–1820), the postemancipation period (1820–1938), post–World War II (1944–60), and postindependence. Explores the physical and social aspects of urban growth, with particular attention to changes in the political economy in the postemancipation period. Includes maps, demographic data, and photographs.


An anthropological study of family life in three Jamaican communities during the 1950s. The author spent two years as a “participant observer” in the sugar-worker communities of Sugartown, Orange Grove, and Mocca. Combines household surveys and interviews to explore issues of work, family, marriage, kinship, community, and labor organizations. Appendices provide survey results and a description of the death and burial of local woman.


An anthropological discussion of work patterns in five coastal settlements in rural Jamaica. Focuses on the multiple work strategies of men who were viewed officially as fishermen, but who engaged in multiple work strategies.


Examines the role of West Indian laborers in the building of the Panama Canal and Panamanian society. Considers how the United States government sought to maintain a steady supply of labor and separated foreign workers from the local labor force. Includes discussion of labor organization among West Indian workers.
Describes the evolution of Carnival and other forms of Black secular music in the Caribbean from 1783 to the first two decades of the twentieth century. Draws on newspaper accounts, colonial documents, oral histories, and folklore.

Outlines the responses of the free colored populations on St. Kitts and Grenada to the demands for emancipation and the implementation of the apprenticeship system during the 1820s and 1830s. Provides data showing the demographic importance of the free colored populations on both islands. Provides examples of free colored political appeals and petitions to the British Colonial Office. Outlines the political career of Ralph B. Cleghorn, a free colored political figure active in Britain in the 1830s. References to Colonial Office primary sources are provided.


Investigates continuities between postemancipation peasant protests in the West Indies and earlier traditions of slave revolts and protests. Examines the riots of February 1856 in Georgetown, British Guyana, led by John Sayers Orr; the 1865 Morant Bay rebellion in Jamaica, and the rebellion in Barbados of March and April of 1876.

A collection of the author’s essays written over roughly a thirty-year period. Organized into three sections, the first of which deals with themes of colonialism and imperialism, addressing topics such as the plantation model, the role of land tenure in creating a British West Indian “plantocracy,” and the establishment of the Caribbean vice admiralty courts. Part II focuses on issues of slavery and slave society in the Americas, particularly the British West Indies. Part III discusses emancipation and resistance in the British West Indies and British West Indian slave culture.

History of slave resistance in the Caribbean, including the influence of such resistance on emancipation. Investigates the working of a Jamaican plantation, Worthy Park estate in St. John’s Parish, and Maroon activity from 1600 to 1775. Describes the African influence on slave resistance, with examples from the Lesser Antilles, Barbados, Antigua, Dominica, St. Vincent, Tobago, Grenada, and the East Coast of Demerara in British Guiana. Rebellions in the early nineteenth century are described, including Bussa’s rebellion in Barbados (1816); the Demerara revolt (1823); and the so-called “Baptist War” (1831–32) in Jamaica.

Presents a detailed history of a large sugar estate, Worthy Park, located in St. John’s Parish, Jamaica. Based on extensive estate records. Includes discussion of the transition to apprenticeship and free labor in the 1830s and 1840s and the decline of the estate as labor costs increased and sugar prices decreased between 1840 and 1860. Important source for understanding attempts by estate owners to maintain labor supply following emancipation.

Presents papers and commentaries from a 1979 international conference entitled “Slave Studies: Directions in Current Scholarship” held in Waterloo, Ontario. Includes a paper by Herbert Gutman on the slave family with commentaries by Barry Higman and Stanley Engerman; a paper by Sidney Mintz on slavery and the rise of peasantry with commentaries by Woodville Marshall, Mary Karasch, and Richard Frucht; and a paper by Walter Rodney on slavery and underdevelopment with commentary by Orlando Patterson.


Examines the lives of slaves and ex-slaves working on the large sugar estate of Worthy Park in St. John’s Parish Jamaica. Includes a section on the transition to free-wage labor (1838–46) that provides comparable wage rates and work requirements for the period. Discusses how increased labor cost coupled with declining world sugar prices led to a restructuring of production in the 1850s. Other sections explore the genealogies of families as they moved from slavery to status as peasant workers. Also contains a selection of photos and illustrations of plantation life and postemancipation rural life.


Discusses contributions by slaves and slave protests to emancipation. Presents brief summaries of slave rebellions and strikes, including Bussa’s rebellion of April 1816 in Barbados, and the larger rebellions in Demerara, British Guiana, in August and September 1823 and the Baptist Wars of December 1831 and February 1832. Considers the so-called interaction between slave politics in the Caribbean and abolitionist politics in London.


Collection of papers originally presented at the Third Caribbean Colloquium held in December, 1977. Relevant papers include the following: Gad Heuman on the franchise in postemancipation Jamaica; David Harrison on the Trinidad peasantry following emancipation; Jean Besson on land tenure and land inheritance in the Caribbean; Wout van der Bor on peasants and emancipation on St. Eustatius and Saba; David Lowenthal and Colin Clark on common lands on Barbuda; Eric Hanley on rice cultivation by East Indians in Guyana; and Michael Allen comparing the white elites in Barbados and Martinique following emancipation.


363. Curtin, Philip D. “The British Sugar Duties and West Indian Prosperity.” *Journal of Economic History* 14 (Spring 1954): 157–64. Examines the effects of the British Government’s Sugar Act of 1846 on the economy of the British West Indies. A victory for proponents of free trade in Britain, the Sugar Act removed protection of West Indian sugar prices and left planters to face world sugar prices and competition from those areas still using slave labor, notably Brazil and Cuba. Based primarily on the *British Parliamentary Papers.*


368. Davis, David Brion. “British Emancipation as a New Moral
Discusses British abolitionists’ perceptions of the West Indies and Americas during the 1830s. Considers the works of major abolitionist writers such as Ralph Wardlaw and Thomas Clarkson.


Examines the role of sugar throughout world history, including a comparative discussion of sugar workers during the transition from slave to free labor. Volume I includes extensive quantitative data on sugar production for British colonies from the late seventeenth to the mid-twentieth centuries as well as plate illustrations of estate life and detailed plans of a Barbados sugar mill. Volume II explores the history of sugar workers, covering the following areas: slavery; the plantation and planters; the British colonies after emancipation; free immigrant labor; indentured Asian workers; and the Chinese “Coolie” trade. Also includes comparative material on sugar production in each West Indian colony following emancipation and extensive quotations from primary sources.

History of coffee plantations in Jamaica from 1790 to 1865.

A study of the social and political history of the Carnival riots by Blacks in 1881 and the Hosay riots by East Indians in 1884, together with the 1887 political reform movement that developed in the aftermath.

Seminal article offering a theory to explain the origins of unfree labor and why it takes the form of serfdom or slavery. Argues that the crucial variable is the land-labor ratio of a given society as mediated by political power relations.

Describes the conditions of South Asian sugar estate workers in British
Guyana during the 1870s. Based on the papers of the Des Voeux Com-
mission.

375. Drescher, Seymour. *Capitalism and Antislavery: British Mobilization in
300 p.

Like the work of David Brion Davis, that of Seymour Drescher is focused
primarily on antislavery organization prior to final abolition but is cru-
cial for understanding postemancipation colonial ideology.


Economic history of Jamaica based on colonial statistical data. Provides
extensive information related to national income, population growth,
production, public finance, and trade. Includes chapters on the transfor-
mation of the plantation economy in the postemancipation period and the
growth of a peasantry. Also examines major social issues in the period
as they relate to changes in productivity and labor supply. An appendix
presents comparative wage rates from 1832 to 1932 for day workers,
tradesmen, domestic workers, and professionals (lawyers and doctors).

Longshoremen’s Strike of 1919.” *Science and Society* 33 (Winter

Analysis of the December 1919 dockworker’s strike in Port-of-Spain,
Trinidad. Discusses role of Afro-Caribbean soldiers just returned from
the European front, the Trinidad Workingmen’s Association, and the
Universal Negro Improvement Association. Provides quotations and
citations from British colonial records concerning the strike.

West Indies, 1919–1920.” *Science and Society* 36 (Spring 1972):
63–77.

Outlines the reception, and often official censorship, of Marcus Garvey’s
Universal Negro Improvement Association and its paper *The Negro
World* in British Honduras, British Guiana; the Windward Islands of St.
Vincent, St. Lucia and Grenada; Trinidad, Jamaica, Barbados, and Ber-
muda; and the Panama Canal Zone. Based on British colonial records.

379. Eltis, David. “Abolitionist Perceptions of Society after Slavery.” In
*Slavery and British Society, 1776–1846*, edited by James Walvin.

Examines British abolitionists’ views on economic and social conditions
in postemancipation British West Indies.


Discusses the similarities and differences in unfree labor systems in Britain and the British American colonies. Examines the circumstances that prompted the importation of African slaves.


Analyzes land-to-labor ratios in the British West Indies immediately following emancipation as well as other data related to annual sugar production.


Examines macrolevel trends in sugar production, technology, and the movement of contract laborers from India, China, and Africa to areas of large-scale sugar plantations, such as the British West Indies. Includes statistical data on the following: estimates of intercontinental flows of contract labor for the period from 1838 to 1915; outflows of labor from India including where Indian workers were received for the period from 1842 to 1920; and world output of cane sugar by type of labor for 1871/72 and 1880/81–1884/5. Explores attempts in the British West Indies by planters to gain access to the labor of former slaves and the turn to contract labor from overseas.


Compares data on labor production and income for ex-slaves in the British West Indies and the United States following emancipation. Includes statistical data for various British West Indian colonies on slave price (1822–30); land to labor ratios; and percentage change in annual sugar production between 1824 and 1833 and from 1839 to 1846. Compares capita income of former slaves in the British West Indies to that of former slaves in the U.S. South during 1860 and 1900.


Discusses the development of village settlements by slaves and ex-slaves
during and immediately following emancipation in British Guiana. Statistics on the population of freeholders and examples of the amounts paid for specific village settlements are provided.


Discusses the development of the Jamaican sugar industry from the late nineteenth century to the reformist policy initiatives of the Jamaican state from 1972 to 1980, based primarily on secondary sources.


Discusses resistance to the implementation of the apprenticeship system on St. Kitts.

Examines the creation of representative government in Jamaica following emancipation. Focuses on the British Cabinet Memorandum of 19 January 1839 on the “Course to be followed with West Indian Assemblies,” including the memorandum’s consideration of the role of the “coloured population.” Also considers the Jamaican Constitution Act of 1854 and Jamaican opposition to “responsible government.”

Collection of essays on the history of peasants in the Caribbean. Geographical areas covered include Barbados, Martinique, St. Lucia, Dominica, Tobago, Jamaica, Grenada, Cuba, and Trinidad.

Examines the architectural legacy of houses built by ex-slaves who chose to live on their own land rather than remain on the estates. The houses, defined as “small settler,” represent an eclectic blend of Georgian proportions and scale and African technology and decorations. Includes photographs of houses from the area near Chapelton in the upper Clarendon region.


History of emancipation based mainly on Colonial Office records. Discusses apprenticeship, free trade, immigrant labor, and changes in the plantation economy, race relations, politics, and religion. Concludes with a discussion of Morant Bay rebellion.


Green’s response to a 1981 article by Nigel Bolland on postemancipation Belize.


Discussion of different scholarly approaches to relations between planters, former slaves, and other groups in the British West Indies during emancipation.


Discusses the debate in the British Parliament and the Colonial Office over the abolition of the apprenticeship system. Investigates the role of
the London Anti-Slavery Society and public opinion. Based on personal papers, newspapers, and Colonial Office records.


Discusses the postemancipation labor question in the Leeward Islands, emphasizing the debates over apprenticeship following abolition. Considers the transition from slave to free labor and the increasing importance of wage labor on plantations for former slaves after 1846. Appendices include lists of Antigua estates by proprietor and size for the period between 1829 and 1921 and import duties on selected items in 1848 and 1855 for the five islands.


Economic and political history of Jamaica focused on the abolition of apprenticeship in 1838, the 1846 British Sugar Duties Act, and the 1865 Morant Bay rebellion. Details economic factors motivating ex-slaves “flight” from the sugar estates and the “rise of the peasantry.” Appendices include population and occupation statistics by race, age, and place of birth from the 1844 and 1861 censuses; sugar exports and prices from 1831 to 1865; immigration statistics from 1834 to 1865; revenues, expenditures, and revenue sources from 1840 to 1865; and import data from 1841 to 1865.


Investigates contemporary perceptions of the West Indian absentee property owner in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. European observations on the perceived negative aspects of absenteeism are presented, particularly the argument that it reduced the white elite population in the colonies.


Considers different explanations for the massive movement of former slaves from estates in the British West Indies following the end of apprenticeships in 1838. Based on evidence presented to the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the West India Colonies of 1842. Includes materials on Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, and British Guiana.
Includes an account of the early banana trade in Jamaica during the period between 1868 and 1905.

Overview of the living and social conditions of women in Barbados, emphasizing the individual achievements and community service of prominent women. Discusses changes in marriage and property laws in the nineteenth century, as well as developments in girls’ education.


Describes the working and living conditions of Indian workers in Trinidad during the period of indentured service from the 1840s to 1917. Outlines the experiences of Indian workers, of whom 143,000 ventured to Trinidad before 1917 and of whom fewer than 25 percent returned to India. Describes forms of control used in the labor process and in plantation life on the sugar estates, as well as specific forms of worker resistance. Such resistance is described in relation to older forms of association and cooperative assistance found in different regions of India.

Considers the origins and growth of the banana export trade in Jamaica from the 1870s through 1953. Includes information on prices and number of acres cultivated as well as on exports from 1910 to 27, banana prices per count bunch from 1918 to 1927, comparisons between prices of the United Fruit Company and of the Jamaica Banana Producers’ Association, and the values of exported products for various periods between 1700 and 1953.


Collection of lectures given in 1983 in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of William Wilberforce’s death and the abolition of slavery in the British West Indies. Lectures discuss the legacy of Wilberforce and different aspects of slavery and abolition in the British West Indies. Lecturers include Jack Hayward, Orlando Patterson, James Walvin, Fiona Spiers, Ian Bradley, Howard Temperley, Michael Craton, Lloyd Best, Shridath S. Ranphal, and Lord Scarman.


Investigates the social and political roles of free people of color in Jamaica prior to and following emancipation. Describes the free coloreds’ campaigns for civil rights prior to 1930, the role of coloreds and Blacks in the Legislative Assembly from 1830 to 1865, and the politics of colored opposition in the period leading up to the Morant Bay rebellion. Includes a bibliographical essay on primary source materials including private papers.

Examines the status of free people of color in Jamaica from the eighteenth century through the period following emancipation. Includes material on social and religious life, education, employment, and biographies of free people of color.

History of the Morant Bay rebellion from its origins to the immediate aftermath.


Review of different approaches to aspects of Caribbean history including kinship and family, social movements, material culture, and oral history.

History of Jamaican slave populations based on Jamaican primary sources as well as the British Colonial Office’s “Slave Registration and Compensation Records.” Includes extensive parish-level data related to topics such as population distribution, productivity, death and birth rates, marriages, manumissions, and runaways. Transformations in labor productivity during the period are discussed in the context of Jamaica’s position in the world economy and the movement toward free labor.


Presents extensive demographic evidence related to slave populations of the British West Indies based primarily on colonial slave registrations from 1807 to 1834. A complement to author’s earlier work on Jamaica, this compendium provides evidence for other colonies related to the physical and economic environments; growth and distribution of the slave population; structure of the slave populations, including gender, race, and age difference; differences between rural and urban areas in work, occupation, housing, and incentives to labor; health, fertility, mortality; and data on manumission, maroonage, and rebellions. Includes a three hundred-page statistical supplement with demographic data derived from colonial sources.


Essays include Richard B. Sheridan’s discussion of the slave trade to Jamaica from 1702 to 1808; Woodville K. Marshall’s analysis of the St. Vincent riots of 1862, and Barry Higman’s examination of domestic service in Jamaica since 1750. Other relevant essays discuss the role of slavery in three West Indian towns and the crown colony government in Trinidad before and after emancipation.


Reconstruction of daily life in a plantation village using archeological as well as documentary evidence. Examines the property ownership, labor, settlement patterns, organization of workers’ villages, village architecture, and the material contents of individual houses. Discusses role of Montpelier in the slave rebellion between 1831 and 1832.


Presents a cartometrical analysis of 156 plans of sugar plantations over the period 1750 and 1880. Analyzes land-use patterns, including the distance between residential and workplace based on the location of sugar fields, laborers’ villages, and the great house.


Outlines the economic history of livestock pens during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in Jamaica.


Compares the ideologies of British and American officials toward emancipated laborers in the British West Indies and U.S. South. Focuses on the writings of Henry Taylor, a middle-level bureaucrat in the British colonial office.


A political, social, and economic history of the transformations in Jamaica from emancipation to the 1938 labor rebellion. Explores colonial and Jamaican political debates over the meaning of free labor and the realities of ex-slave peasant life. Examines contradictions within liberal
democracy and free market ideologies. Presents extensive data on land and labor, and analyzes the 1865 Morant Bay Rebellion. Concludes with a discussion of twentieth-century working-class history and the 1938 labor unrest. Appendices provide sources for the analysis of data on landholdings and migration, as well as sources for and analysis of data on the Jamaican Assembly.


Expands on author’s monograph (above), with a focus on Jamaica. Explores the dimension of gender in free labor ideology.


Wide-ranging collection of anthropological essays on the Caribbean. Themes include culture and history, language, race, ethnicity and class, plantations, peasants and communities, land tenure, labor, economics and internal markets, domestic organization, and the place of religion and folklore.


Statistical analysis of birth rate cycles and production cycles in major agricultural export crops in Jamaica between 1880 and 1938.


Examines the migration of ex–slaves from Barbados to work on the sugar plantations of Trinidad. Explores the motives for migration to Trinidad and the use of labor recruiters in Barbados after 1870.


Examines the evolution of cane farming from 1882 to early twentieth century, including motivations and organization of the system and conflicts between planters and cane farmers.


A series of essays on labor in the Bahamas including the self-hire system during slavery, the development of sharecropping and tenancy during the immediate postemancipation period, and the increased exploitation of peasants at the end of the nineteenth century. Concludes with chapters on West Indian migration in the 1920s as well as labor migration to Florida in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.


History of the decline of British military presence in the West Indies.


Overview of key changes in economy of Barbados.


441. Klingberg, Frank J. “The Lady Mico Charity Schools in the British West Indies, 1835–1842.” *Journal of Negro History* 24 (July 1939): 291–344. A history of the Lady Mico Charity Schools, which were developed and funded by British abolitionists with the goal of educating former slaves in the British West Indies. Based on the reports and letters written by Mico teachers in the West Indies to the Charity’s trustees in London. Includes quotations from instructors and administrators on the workings of the Mico schools.


ward Jamaican workers. Includes three life histories of former migrants to Cuba, which are based on the author’s fieldwork.


A reader consisting of individually authored essays on the history, economics, politics, and culture of the Caribbean region from the Haitian Revolution through the twentieth century. Includes discussion of Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. Essay by Francisco Scarano on land and labor in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean is of particular relevance for comparative purposes.


Outlines the history of peasant resistance in Jamaica from the end of apprenticeship in 1838 to the Morant Bay rebellion of 1865. Discusses primary sources and secondary literature related to Jamaican peasant life and resistance with an emphasis on the interaction between planters, the state, the British government, and rural populations. Also reviews the role of Baptist missionaries who supported the demands of rural people after emancipation.


Examines how successive British Governments responded to Governor Eyre’s handling of the Morant Bay rebellion of 1865. Based on the private papers of British political leaders.


Discusses ideological background to Henry Taylor’s 1865 response to a petition for land and aid from “certain poor people” of St. Ann’s parish in Jamaica. Also considers the Colonial Land and Immigration Commission’s report of 1858, which sanctioned immigration of Chinese workers to the West Indies.


Overview of the major problems facing colonial government in Jamaica from the end of apprenticeship to the Morant Bay rebellion including political representation; free trade and the loss of sugar protection; elimination of foreign slavery; completion of emancipation; labor shortages and indentured labor; needs of the newly independent peasantry; and the increasingly wide gap between rich and poor.


Discusses 1739 treaties between the government of Jamaica and two separate groups of Maroons and the treaties’ effects on Maroon political stability. Describes the pretreaty political organization of Maroons; political disturbances in the posttreaty period; and efforts by the colonial state to destabilize Maroon society.


An examination of the recruitment and structure of Indian indentured labor. Discusses enforcement of indentures, the health and social conditions of the immigrants, and the financing of the system and its eventual abolition.


Details the development of medical services in rural areas and the enforcement of colonial indentured service laws in Trinidad and British Guiana. Based on Colonial Office records and the *British Parliamentary Papers*.


A history of Portuguese immigration to British Guiana in the nineteenth century. Discusses role of Portuguese in sugar industry and retail trade as well as relations between Portuguese, East Indians, and former slaves. Based on the *British Parliamentary Papers* and records of the Colonial Office.

Examines regulations and ordinances concerning long-term labor contracts following emancipation. Discusses Colonial Office's regulation of contracts for different groups of workers including former slaves, African-American immigrants from the United States, and immigrants from India and China. Based on the *British Parliamentary Papers* and records of the Colonial Office.


Examines the transition from slavery to free labor in Barbados. Includes discussion of abolition of slavery apprenticeship and the advent of free labor. Based on archival records from Barbados and the Colonial Office.


History of West Indian migrant workers in Panama from the building of the Panama Railroad in the 1850s through the completion of the Panama Canal. Discusses working and housing conditions, education, and racism in Panama. Appendices include copies of signed statements by migrants detailing their experiences in Panama and service contracts as well as statistical data on migrants.


Biography of Marcus Garvey with special emphasis on the role of Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) in Jamaican politics and social protests. Includes discussion of Garvey’s family and early influences, including Robert Love and Alexander Bedward. Charts the development of the UNIA and its impact in Cuba, Panama, and Costa Rica as well as Garvey’s influence in the United States and Africa. Covers the UNIA’s role in municipal and national politics in Jamaica and Garvey’s influences on the labor protests between 1937 and 1938.

A collection of individually-authored papers originally presented at a conference held at the University of the West Indies in November 1987.


Study drawing on extensive primary printed sources, recordings, oral interviews with calypsonians, and author’s experiences as composer and performer. Parts II and III deal with postemancipation period. Based on author’s doctoral dissertation.


An economic and demographic history of Jamaica based on parish-level data from 1891 to 1935. Investigates the relationship between economic activity and demographic patterns following the demise of the sugar plantation economy and the rise of banana and other staple crop production by small holders. Provides statistical data on parishes between 1871 and 1943.


Considers women’s participation in the Jamaican labor force from 1881 to 1921. Draws on the decennial censuses. Notes a significant rise in the number of women categorized as agricultural workers and planters between 1881 and 1921.


History of contract and indentured labor systems in the British West Indies. Examines the experience of Chinese and Indian immigrants and migrants in the Caribbean, detailing life and labor on the plantations for each group as well as relations with Creole and ex-slave populations. Investigates the social mobility of Chinese and Indian immigrants, assimilation, and contributions of each group to West Indian economy and culture. Appendices include statistical data on Asian migration and immigration; laws on immigration in Trinidad, British Guiana, and Jamaica; and examples of indenture contracts.
Comparison of race relations following emancipation in the West Indies and United States.

Collection of essays on politics and identity in the West Indies after decolonization.

Investigates the British Labour Party’s influence on colonial policy and trade union organizations in the West Indies. Discusses the West Indian Labour Conference, the Trinidad Workers’ Association, and the British Guiana Labour Union. Addresses development assistance, development ideology, and labor unrest in the late 1930s as well as the role of Labour MP Arthur Creech Jones, who served as colonial secretary after World War II.

Essays on the contribution of East Indians to Guyanese sugar plantations. Author examines the initial “seasoning” of the immigrants at Calcutta for the impending voyage, the role of James Crosby as the protector of the Indians, “Tadjah” festivals, the establishment of East Indian villages, the Rose Hall riots of 1913, the campaign against indenture from 1908 to 1918, and postabolition labor schemes of Guyanese planters and resistance to those schemes by Indian nationalists and the Government of India.

A collection of essays on labor migration in the British Empire and Commonwealth from 1780 to the twentieth century. Includes studies of English indentured servants, the failure of contract labor in the nineteenth-century United States, the importation of British Indians into Surinam, migrant labor in South Africa, and coerced labor in New Zealand, Northern Nigeria, and Australian New Guinea.

A biography of Governor Grant, who took over as governor of Jamaica following the Morant Bay rebellion. Provides a brief account of the Morant Bay rebellion of 1865, noting the implications of the rebellion for debates over crown colony status and bureaucratic reforms. Documents the activities of Governor Grant and his administration from 1866 to 1873, particularly in terms of education, financial reform, assistance to sugar planters, and public works projects. Includes a bibliography of relevant Jamaican primary sources.


Examines relative economic differentials in St. Vincent and Barbados that prompted labor migrations and changes over time.


Offers a typology and periodization for understanding the history of West Indian peasantries since emancipation. Includes statistical tables showing the distribution of land holdings.


Considers the emergence and decline in the British Windward Islands of the metayage system of sugar production, a form of labor in which wages were paid in kind rather than in cash. Discusses contracts, grievances of the “metayers” (laborers), role of courts, and the levels of sugar production. Describes planters’ growing opposition to the system.


Detailed examination of efforts by the governor-in-chief of the Windward Islands to abolish the apprenticeship system.


Lectures by different authors delivered in 1987 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of emancipation in Barbados. Emphasis is on the first four decades of the twentieth century. Themes include village formation, political and trade union organization, the 1937 riots and the relationship of Barbados to the Confederation of the West Indies in the 1950s and 1960s.


History of Marcus Garvey (1884–1940) and the United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). Describes Garvey’s formative years in Jamaica and aspects of his philosophy and political agenda including the concepts of “race first” and self-reliance, and his writings concerning nationhood, religion, history, Africa, and the Black Star Line. Also considers topics such as Garvey’s relations with the FBI and the NAACP as well as his court battles, imprisonment and exile. Includes a table showing the distribution of UNIA branches in the United States, the West Indies, Central, and South America in 1926.


A history of the political and economic crises confronting the British colonies during the period immediately following emancipation. Discusses tensions over sugar price subsidies for Antigua, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad, and British Guiana and the impact of emancipation on the supply of labor to sugar estates in these colonies. Based on the British Parliamentary Papers and contemporary accounts. Considers land
ownership by former slaves; attempts to supply labor through immigration from China, Africa, and India; social conditions following emancipation; the 1846 Sugar Price Act; and free trade.

History of the abolition of slavery in the British colonies. Based primarily on the British Parliamentary Papers and published accounts by European observers.

Collection of individually-authored chapters originally presented at a conference on postemancipation societies held at the University of Pittsburgh in August 1988. Authors include Stanley Engerman on economic responses to emancipation; O. Nigel Bolland on the politics of freedom in the British Caribbean; Michel-Rolph Trouillot on free people of color and politics in postemancipation Dominica and Saint-Domingue/Haiti; Jean Besson on community and family life in the British West Indies; Diana Austin-Broos on Christianity in postemancipation Jamaica; Sidney Mintz on the historiographical meaning of freedom; and Raymond T. Smith on race, class, and gender during the transition to freedom.

Comparative history of Jamaica and British Guiana after emancipation. Discusses problems of land, plantation technology, capital, and labor supply in each colony. Considers the politics of planters in each colony and different approaches to finding labor for sugar estates. Considers the proprietary village, the metayer system, immigrant labor and communal villages in British Guiana. In the case of Jamaica, addresses efforts by planters to shape the working class and rent policies for landless peasants. Appendices include information on a Guiana estate; the constraints of English immigration policy; production techniques for Jamaican sugar; Jamaican agricultural and criminal laws; and the Jamaica Baptist Mission.

Discussion of theoretical approaches to race and class in Caribbean society.

A collection of the author’s essays on slavery, forced labor, and the plantation system in Puerto Rico and peasantry in the Caribbean more generally. Discusses the historical sociology of Jamaican villages, including the origins of free villages following emancipation and the origins of the Jamaican market system. Explores the uses and symbolic meaning of houses and yards among Caribbean peasantry.


A comparative analysis of the growth of sugar plantation agriculture in Puerto Rico and Jamaica. Compares the land tenure and land use patterns of peasantry in both colonies and discusses the relationship between the decline of the sugar economy in Jamaica and the rise of sugar in Puerto Rico in the second half of the nineteenth century. Followed by a brief commentary by Elsa V. Goveia.


Examination of conceptual issues in defining the class status of rural labor. Discusses the analytical and terminological difficulties in extant literature, the character of rural proletariat and peasant communities, and the process of rural proletarianization.


Traces the relationship between Europeans’ increasing consumption of sugar and the development of Caribbean sugar production based on slavery. Discusses the ways in which the increased importance of sugar consumption in Europe contributed to the development of European capitalism in the eighteenth and nineteenth century and European reliance on colonies and slave plantation economies in the Caribbean. Considers production of sugar and the international sugar trade. Includes images of sugar production in the West Indies.


A series of essays originally written in 1972 and 1973 on African-American history. Engages Melville Herskovits’s works concerning African cultural survivals in the New World. Authors consider topics including the encounter model, sociocultural contact and flow in slave societies; slavery as a social system; the beginnings of African-American societies and cultures; retentions and survivals; and kinship and sex roles.


Describes the racial and ethnic segmentation of the labor force in the Belizian banana industry since the early 1980s, its relation to local and political constraints affecting banana production, and the various forms by which immigrant labor is recruited and deployed. Includes a detailed discussion of relations between labor processes, ethnic tensions, and efforts at unionization.


A history of class, race, and ethnicity in British Guiana. Investigates how the white elite used state power to coerce former slave, indentured Indian, and Chinese populations. Examines plantation life and labor routines, attempts by former slaves to engage in peasant production, and planters’ attempts to influence postemancipation politics. Compares experience of Portuguese immigrants with those of Chinese and Indian immigrants to the colony. Based on records from the British Colonial Office and Guyana.

Biography of one of the most influential governors of Jamaica during its transition to a free wage labor system in the 1840s.


A narrative history of British colonial governments in the West Indies from the beginning of the Colonial Office to the beginning of apprenticeship. Analyzes the role of colonial governments in the abolition of the slave trade and increasing pressures in Britain for the abolition of slavery. Also discusses the growth of the Colonial Office during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Details the British occupations of Martinique, Guadaloupe, and St. Lucia following France’s defeat in 1794. Also discusses the British acquisition of Trinidad from Spain in 1802.


Discusses different approaches to the study of the history of East Indians in Trinidad from 1834 onward.


A history of British West Indian emigration to Panama. Highlights the role of West Indians in the building of the Panama railroad in the 1850s and efforts to construct a canal across Panama during the period from 1881 to 1914. Investigates push and pull factors leading to migration, including the depressed sugar economy in most of the West Indies, increased population pressures on small peasant landholdings, and the recruitment of workers by agents of canal-related companies. Details the demographic, economic and social effects of emigration, with a focus on Jamaica and Barbados.

History of industrial relations and trade union practices in the Caribbean. Examines values in the workplace; the historical origins and character of trade unions; the practice of collective bargaining; state attempts to redefine labor-employer relations after the 1960s; and prospects for the future of trade unions in the Caribbean. Focuses mainly on the period after 1960, but includes discussion of trade union origins.


Examines the apprenticeship system in Mauritius from 1835 to 1839. The apprenticeship system is described both in legal and practical terms using Colonial Office correspondence and investigations. Makes comparisons with apprenticeship in the British West Indies including a discussion of how East Indian labor was used to compensate for the loss of African ex-slaves who retreated from the sugar-plantation labor market during the apprenticeship period.


A dissection of the administration of Governor Eyre and the causes of the Morant Bay Rebellion by a twentieth-century governor of Jamaica.


Investigates continuities in family organization from slavery to modern-day urban poverty. Based on secondary literature on the West Indian family during slavery and in the postemancipation period. Includes demographic data on household composition under slavery and data on sugar plantation employment between 1834 and 1973.


Investigates the creation of a labor reserve in Jamaica during the nineteenth century and the history of labor out-migration, particularly to Panama and Cuba. Discusses the political economy of Jamaica at the time of emancipation, the free labor debate, and the creation of a rural population dependent on wage labor for family survival. Examines Jamaican laborers’ role in building the Panama Canal and the sugar estates and as domestic workers in Cuba. Concludes with a discussion of Jamaican workers as international workers and the impact of migration on family and household structure.


A history of the Jamaican trade union movement from 1919 to 1955. Discusses the beginnings of legal trade unionism (1919–34); the labor revolt in Jamaica of 1938; and the struggle between Alexander C. Bustamante’s Industrial Trade Union (btrtu) and Norman Manley’s Trade Union Council (tuc) for control of the labor movement in the 1930s and 1940s. Provides a detailed account of the 1938 disturbances and the biographies of Manley and Bustamante. Includes statistics on labor participation, wages, and descriptions of government labor legislation.


A history of the 1938 labor rebellion in Jamaica. Analyzes modes of production in Jamaica after emancipation and the impact of peasant-worker social relations on political and labor organization. Discusses the roles of Jamaican Ethiopianism, Garveyism, and Bedwardism in the politics of rural and urban working populations in the early twentieth century.


Focuses on the 1937 labor actions in Trinidad. Briefly discusses slave labor and early indentured labor from India. Includes a history of early attempts at trade union recognition, the Trinidad Working Men’s Association, and the strike of 1919. Includes biographical material on many trade union leaders, including Arthur Cipriani, Adrian Rienzi, and Uriah Butler. Bibliography contains a list of relevant British Colonial Office files and other primary source materials.

A demographic history of Trinidad’s four main population groups: Creoles, British West Indians, natives of India and their descendants, and natives of Africa and their descendants. Based primarily on decennial censuses between 1851 and 1901. Discusses population trends in the period including the involvement of Asian laborers in the sugar and cocoa industries. Provides data from annual reports and censuses in tabular form including information on Ward Unions, occupations, and sales of crown land.


Examines the political negotiations between the British Colonial Office and its representatives in the British West Indies, particularly Jamaica, over the amelioration and abolition of slavery between 1823 and 1831. Based primarily on Colonial Office correspondence. Discusses the relationship between the Colonial Office and abolitionists in Britain and Jamaica and the large body of evidence collected through various official investigations of slavery. Includes references to the British Parliamentary Papers.


A history of women in Trinidad and Tobago with special emphasis on the growth of trade unions and women’s political organizations in the period between 1898 and 1960. Includes a discussion of the gender division of labor during slavery and indentureship, including African and Indian women’s work. Explores the rise of trade unions and other political organizations as well as relations between middle-class and working-class women. Details the political career of Elma Francois and others involved in the creation of a women’s movement in Trinidad and Tobago.
Includes data on women’s work and wages and chronology of trade union history from 1919 to 1960.


Explores British racial thought from the 1890s to the early 1960s. Investigates the influence of Mary Kingsley and ideas of cultural relativism; racial segregation and the Commonwealth; the roles of sociology, anthropology; and race riots in London, Liverpool, and other areas.


A history of human migration on the islands of St. Kitts and Nevis. Provides demographic and historical evidence related to slave society; patterns of migration in the postemancipation period, particularly to Trinidad and British Guiana; and subsequent labor migration patterns to Bermuda and Santa Domingo in the twentieth century.


Collection of individually-authored chapters presented at a conference commemorating the 150th anniversary of the abolition of slavery. Divided into four sections, the papers cover the following themes: the historical context of British abolition; slaves and the emancipation process; connections between British and Continental European abolitionist movements; postemancipation society. Includes Barbara Bush, “Towards Emancipation: Slave Women and Resistance to Coercive Labour Regimes in the British West Indian Colonies, 1790–1838”; W. K. Marshall, “Apprenticeship and Labour Relations in Four Windward Islands”; and Stanley L. Engerman, “Economic Change and Contract Labour in the British Caribbean: The End of Slavery and the Adjustment to Emancipation.”

A historical demography of Jamaica from 1658 to the 1950s. Material is organized into four main historical periods as the early slave period; the period covering the last years of slavery and apprenticeship; the period of census records and indenture migration (beginning in the 1840s); and the period of civil registration (after 1878). Discusses population growth in each period by parish with data on age, race, sex, education, and occupational status. Also includes data on indenture and immigration and trends in outmigration, internal migration, mortality, birthrates, fertility, and illegitimacy, as well as population growth forecasts.

Includes biographical information on six prominent historical figures in Jamaican history including Edward Jordon, a prominent colored freeman who fought during the 1830s for abolition and emancipation in the Jamaican Assembly; George William Gordon, a colored politician assassinated during the Morant Bay rebellion; Thomas Henry MacDermot, a prominent journalist and literary figure at the turn of the century; Herbert George de Lisser, prominent conservative politician and author in the 1930s; Archbishop Enos Nuttall, the Anglican Archbishop from 1893 to 1916; and Dr. Robert Love, a Black newspaper editor who founded the “Jamaica Advocate” in 1894 and was elected to the Jamaican Assembly for St. Andrew in 1916. Includes photographs.

Discusses the Morant Bay rebellion and the role of Paul Bogle in the revolt. Contains quotations from Bogle’s testimony to the Jamaican Royal Commission following the Morant Bay rebellion and other data produced by the Commission and published in the *British Parliamentary Papers*.

Discussion of Jamaican anthropologist M. G. Smith’s, *The Plural Society in the British West Indies* (1965).

Continues a debate between the author and M. G. Smith over the latter’s “plural society” theory. See item 559.

A social, political, and economic history of British Guiana. Considers the class struggle between the sugar planter elite and the African and Indian working classes. Addresses the political economy of the sugar estates and peasant production outside of the sugar economy. Discusses the role of race as an impediment to worker solidarity and details the difficulties of multiracial alliances prior and during the 1905 riots in Georgetown and on the sugar estates. Appendices include statistics on production, land distribution, wages, immigration, and racial and ethnic composition of the Guyanese population at the turn of the twentieth century.

Examines Protestant evangelization and missionary education in the immediate postemancipation period. Details evangelical work among slave communities during the period from 1800 to 1834 by the Christian Missionary Society (cms) missions in Demerara, British Guiana and the role of Creole missionaries in evangelical work following emancipation.

Investigates relations between ex-slaves and European Missionaries in the immediate postemancipation period. Examines the views of leading missionaries during the apprenticeship period (1834–38) among the four major Protestant missions: the Church Missionary Society (cms), the London Missionary Society (lms), the Baptist Missionary Society (bms),
and the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society (WMMS). Provides references to missionary papers as well as British Parliamentary debates and reports concerning education policies following emancipation.

Collection of essays delivered at 1956 conference. Includes influential essays by Charles Wagley, Eric Williams, M. G. Smith, Raymond T. Smith, and others, many of which address interpretive issues related to postemancipation societies.

Collection of papers originally presented at a 1977 conference of the same title. Discusses development of plantation systems and slave societies; metropolitan slave codes and slave demography; social institutions and slave societies; slave images and identities; slave revolts, resistances, marronage, and implications for postemancipation society; research tools and resources; and research problems and implications for contemporary society. Postemancipation studies cover the British West Indies (including St. Kitts and Jamaica) and Puerto Rico.

Explores traditions of female autonomy in Caribbean history.


A statistical analysis of land conveyance deeds in rural Jamaica during the period from 1866 to 1900. The analysis is divided into four periods: 1867 to 1869, when there was little interest in land acquisition by the wealthier landowners; 1870 to 1879, when government land policies forced squatters off lands, and unclaimed lands were sold off, with a noticeable increase in banana cultivation by small settler planters; 1880 to 1889, witnessing the rapid growth of the banana industry in northeast-
ern and southern parishes and the further decline of the sugar industry; and the period from 1890 to 1900, with consolidation of the banana industry. Includes tables showing parish-level land transactions with price and acreage information.

A history of slavery in the Bahamas, with particular emphasis on the period between 1807 and 1834. Provides demographic information including data on births and deaths, manumission and runaways, discipline and punishment, occupations, and health. Other topics include entertainment and customs, secular music and dance, Junkanoo, story telling, African cooking, and Obeah. Includes sections on settlements of ex-slaves and the apprenticeship system.

A group of essays by the director of archives for the Bahamas. Coverage includes the 1942 riot in Nassau and the 1937 riot on Inagua, the role of the colored middle class in Nassau from 1890 to 1942, family life, and a description of “Over-the-Hill,” a group of towns established by emancipated slaves that become a neighborhood associated with the Black population of Nassau as white elites attempted to segregate the city.

A collection of individually-authored essays on indentured labor in the British colonial world in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. An introductory comparative literature review by the editor is followed by selections on Jamaica, British Guiana, Trinidad, Mauritius, Fiji, Malaya, Queensland (Australia), and the Transvaal. Chapters covering the British West Indies include an essay on Jamaica by William Green, an essay on British Guiana by Alan Adamson, and an essay on Trinidad by Marianne Ramesar.

Discusses major themes in the transformation of Caribbean labor systems in the nineteenth century. Compares the strategies used by planters and the colonial state to maintain a viable and inexpensive labor force
in the postemancipation period. Includes discussion of Jamaica, British Guiana, Trinidad, Cuba, and Puerto Rico.

Examines the experiences of African indentured workers who were enlisted in Sierra Leone to work on Jamaican sugar estates between 1843 and 1865. Based on the author’s 1971 fieldwork with descendants living in Westmoreland and St. Thomas parishes as well as archival and newspaper records. Investigates work routines on the sugar estates, African economic and cultural institutions, and the importance of African religious communities. Includes a discussion of Mayalism, an eighteenth-century religion that combined African and Jamaican traditions. An appendix provides data on immigration, including ship dates, number of passengers, and mortality rates on immigrant ships from St. Helena to Jamaica.

Investigates the careers of two colored civil servants working in the colonial administration after emancipation. Discusses Thomas Witter Jackson, who served as a stipendiary magistrate, and David Ewart, who became agent general of immigration in 1848.

Presents a typology of peasants in Trinidad and the Caribbean more generally. Discusses squatting, freeholders, small cocoa cultivators, and sugar cane farmers and provides statistical data on cultivated acreage of different crops for the period from 1834 to 1921. Includes references to primary sources on early-nineteenth-century forms of peasant cultivation.

History of the controversy surrounding Governor Eyre’s suppression of the Morant Bay rebellion of 1865 including the roles of John Stuart Mill, Thomas Carlyle, Charles Darwin, John Ruskin, and Thomas Henry Huxley.


546. Sheller, Mimi. “Quasheba, Mother, Queen: Black Women’s Public Leadership and Political Protest in Post-Emancipation Jamaica, 1834–1865.” *Slavery and Abolition* 19 (December 1998): 90–117. Discusses Jamaican women’s roles in collective labor protests, petitions, demonstrations and riots between 1834 and 1865. Examines agricultural workers’ collective protests against plantation policies, particularly during the apprenticeship period, challenges to male control of religion, and uses of urban culture and outdoor public space to demonstrate, riot, and rebel.

547. Shepherd, Verene A. “The Effects of the Abolition of Slavery on Jamaican Livestock Farms (Pens), 1834–1845.” *Slavery and Abolition* 10 (September 1989): 187–211. Examines transformations in production and labor relations on Jamaican livestock farms during the apprenticeship and immediate post-emancipation period. Discusses the exodus of pen workers after 1836, with examples of workers’ complaints as presented in special magistrate records and data on the economic decline of livestock farming after emancipation.


Examines the relations between employers and workers on Jamaican livestock farms during the apprenticeship period. Includes discussion of “valuation,” the process by which plantation and pen owners negotiated the value of their slaves in order to be compensated by the colonial government as well as conflicts over classifications of apprentices under a 1837 act. Based on Colonial Office records.


Examines the conditions of Jamaican workers between 1838 and 1846. Examines the views of planters, Jamaican political leaders, and colonial officials on the postemancipation labor question. Also details the Jamaican Assembly’s attempted use of law and punishment to retain labor of former slaves for plantations.


Discusses acculturation and differentiation among Jamaican Africans, Creoles, and whites during the nineteenth century.
See items 526 and 527.

A collection of essays on Caribbean social structure, race, class, education, land rights, and author’s theory of “ethnic and cultural pluralism.” Sections most relevant to postemancipation studies include a historical examination of Caribbean social structure in the 1820s; a comparative discussion of slavery and emancipation in Jamaica and Zaria, Northern Nigeria; and a study of land rights and land transfers on the Island of Carriacou (in the Grenadines) for the period from 1904 to 1954.


Addresses race and class in the Caribbean, including the importance of British liberalism.

Review of sociological and anthropological literature concerning family and social structure in the Caribbean, including works on land tenure, inheritance, marriage, kinship, and status.

Discussion of labor protests in British Guiana in 1924, which resulted in the deaths of sugar workers in East Demerara. Discusses the events leading up to the protests of sugar estate workers, including strikes by dockworkers in Georgetown under the leadership of the British Guiana Labour Union (BGUL).


Examines the political economy of the Caribbean from the late eighteenth through the late nineteenth centuries. Part I discusses slave societies in the late eighteenth century, including the roles of free labor, finance capital, planters, and race. Part II discusses emancipation, including the impact of the French and Haitian Revolutions, the rise of new labor systems, and politics in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic.


An anthology of folk tales and oral histories collected by the author in 1973 and 1974 including stories, rhymes, songs, riddles, trickster narratives, and other manifestations of oral tradition collected in rural and urban areas of Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth, Manchester, St. Catherine, St. Mary, Portland, and St. Andrew parishes. Discusses the cultural legacy of West African and Afro-Jamaican storytelling from the period of slavery and postemancipation labor migration. Includes photographs, musical scores, and complete text of many stories.


Discussion of abolitionist ideas about slavery and capitalism and their influence on later historians.


Examines the efforts of Jamaican sugar planters and the colonial state to obtain laborers from the West Coast of Africa following emancipation. Explores the difficulties experienced by planters immediately after abolition in obtaining sufficient labor at low wages and negotiations between planters and politicians with the Colonial Office on possible strategies for recruiting laborers from outside Jamaica. Includes data on numbers of African immigrants and their wages and occupations in Jamaica.

573. Thomas-Hope, Elizabeth M. “The Establishment of a Migration Tradition: British West Indian Movements to the Hispanic Caribbean in the Century after Emancipation.” In *Caribbean Social Relations*, edited by Colin G. Clarke. Monograph Series No. 8. Liverpool: Centre for Latin American Studies, University of Liverpool, 1978. Discusses labor migration from the British West Indies to Panama, Cuba, Costa Rica, and Venezuela. Discusses how the “free wage market” after emancipation created a pull factor as U.S. companies operating in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean paid higher wages than those in the British West Indies. Includes a map showing the net outflow of Jamaican and Barbadian migrants to Panama, Cuba, and Costa Rica and of Trinidadians to Venezuela.

574. Thompson, Alvin O., ed. *Emancipation I*. Cave Hill, Barbados: Department of History, University of the West Indies, 1986. 108 p. Essays discuss topics including West African societies on the eve of the Atlantic slave trade, the effect of the slave trade on Barbados, the origins of sugar plantations and slave society on Barbados, legal measures leading up to emancipation, and the period from 1838 to 1876.


Examines how crime reflected conflicts and tensions in the plantation system in Trinidad. Discusses new criminal codes created after emancipation in context of the desire of planters to obtain more wage labor. Considers law enforcement agencies, rates and patterns of crime, violence and social disorder, and mechanisms of labor control, as well as topics such as carnival and Obeah. Appendices include data on crime and punishment during the period. Based primarily on British Colonial Office records, the Trinidad Council Papers, and Trinidad newspapers.

A history of Dominica with a focus on the development of a peasant-worker class following emancipation. Discusses emancipation, land acquisition, indebtedness, and land alienation by the former slaves during apprenticeship and the immediate postemancipation period. Considers peasant-worker communities and gives an ethnographic description of life in the village of Wesley based on the author’s fieldwork in the early 1980s.


Investigates the role of European missionaries in the lives of the slave populations of western Jamaica, with a focus on the “Baptist War” of 1831. Based on records from the British Colonial Office, the Baptist Missionary Society, and the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society. Describes relations between missionaries, planters, and slaves in Hanover, St. James, and Westmoreland parishes. Describes internal struggles within the European missions concerning abolition, emancipation, and the apprenticeship system. Details the role of the Native Baptist missions in St. James parish during the Baptist War and retaliation by whites who burned numerous mission chapels in February, 1832.

Collection of essays on British abolitionists and aspects of West Indian emancipation. Includes work by Michael Craton on slave culture, resistance, and emancipation in the British West Indies; Barry Higman on slavery and the industrial revolution; and David Eltis on British abolitionists’ perceptions of postemancipation society.

Discusses legal rights of free persons of color in the West Indies. Considers the “free coloured”—persons of mixed race—and “free blacks.” Includes demographic data on populations of free people of color in the early 1800s in Antigua, Jamaica, Trinidad, Grenada, Barbados, Dominica, Mauritius, St. Lucia, and Montserrat. Describes the struggles of free persons for rights, including the case of Louis Celeste Lecesne and John EscoVery in Jamaica.

Considers constitutional reforms in Jamaica (1880–95), British Guiana (1880–95), Trinidad (1880–95), and the British West Indies generally (1895–1903). Discusses the role of the Executive Councils of each colony in advising colonial governors and debates over representation. Includes an extensive bibliography of relevant primary and secondary sources.


Foundational study of abolition, much debated in the subsequent scholarship.

A general history of the West Indies including areas formerly and currently colonized by the British, French, Spanish, American, Dutch, and Danish. Discusses topics such as the abolition of the Caribbean slave system, the rise of free labor, Asian immigration, and the sugar economy.
Examines popular protest and local politics in Kingston in the postemancipation period. Discusses how the enfranchisement of Jewish, free Black, and colored men in 1831 changed the composition and nature of the Kingston Common Council.

Examines labor relations in the first years following emancipation and the end of the apprenticeship system. Discusses parish-level protests immediately following emancipation including opposition to East Indian immigration by former slaves. Based on sources from the Colonial Office and Jamaican newspapers.

Describes ex-slaves’ resistance to the apprenticeship system after 1834. Also describes elaborate festivities and celebrations marking the first emancipation and the end of apprenticeship. Includes images of cane workers and emancipation celebrations.


An ethnography of people of African descent on the island of Providence. Discusses work, family, marriage, kinship, and social structure. Also includes comparative sections that discuss other Caribbean populations of African descent.

Discusses the influx and incorporation of new immigrant groups after the end of the apprenticeship period in 1838. Considers the arrival and treatment of immigrants including liberated Africans from Sierra Leone, African-American freepersons recruited from the southern United
States, and immigrants from Madeira, India, and China. Discusses racial and class tensions in the postemancipation society. Also considers competing religious organizations, problems in education, and the cultural and social difficulties confronting the Creole population.