

ABSTRACT

The Immigration of Peons to Trinidad
And Their Contribution to the
Development of the Cocoa Industry
1811-1891

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During the nineteenth century, a number of peons left the Spanish Main and came to Trinidad. This Research Paper establishes a definition of Peon and traces their pattern of immigration and settlement. It also examines their employment as labourers and the role they played in pioneering and building the Trinidad cocoa industry. Additionally, the peons' rich cultural traditions of song, dance, music, language and food are explored.

The research concludes that the Peons were instrumental in the revival of the Trinidad cocoa industry. As a part of the labour migratory pattern of the period, they also provided seasonal labour for the sugar industry. They were thus found to be valuable to the economic and cultural development of Trinidad.