

ABSTRACT

"Colour for Colour; Skin for Skin;"

The Ideological Foundations of Post-Slavery Society, 1838-1865, The Jamaican Case
(A Study of Some of the Ideas Justifying the Morant Bay Rebellion and its Suppression)

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This thesis focuses on the ideological foundations of post-slavery society. It constructs and examines the philosophical bases of the Morant Bay Rebellion and its suppression. It is a study of the antecedents of twentieth century Caribbean political thought.

The methodological bases upon which this dissertation is constructed, rest on the theory of conflict, i.e., perspectives of class, race, and gender contestations, and the antagonisms between Eurocentricism and Africentricism.

Chapter One takes a critical look at methodological and conceptual issues in Caribbean political thought; Chapter Two analyses the socio-economic and political bases of the outbreak and highlights the struggles for and against reform; Chapter Three makes a comparative analysis of the economic perspectives of plantation economics and the free market model, its perceived alternative; Chapter Four examines the objective but especially the subjective reasons for the outbreak erupting in St. Thomas-in-the-East; Chapter Five contains a construction of the intellectual foundations of the Morant Bay Rebellion and a profile of key personalities associated with the outbreaks; Chapter Six examines the reasons for the defeat of the people and the victory of the suppressionists; Chapter Seven contains a catalogue of the calculated terror of British Colonialism and constructs the philosophical bases of that terror; Chapter Eight summarises.

This study contends that: the philosophical foundations of post-Emancipation society were rooted in racism and sexism; that sexism was the antecedent of racism; that the motive force of racism and the struggle against it were rooted in social classes which were manifestly biased against women.

Three important contributions that this study should exercise in the field of political science are (1) the examination of gender as a tenet of plantation political thought as well as a tool for analysing and constructing political theory; (2) the construction of a philosophy of the Morant Bay Rebellion, and (3) the importance of culture in defining and understanding political philosophy.