

ABSTRACT

This study examines the Coffee Industry in Jamaica between 1790 and 1850. The objectives are to examine its structure and performance during this period.

The study reveals that expansion of the industry resulted in coffee being cultivated in almost every parish of the island. A significant number of slaves were exploited on these properties. The study also reveals that the industry was relatively profitable between 1790 and 1810. Consequently, those planters involved were mostly well off.

However, this early "boom" in the industry did not last. A number of factors contributed to its failure. These included the Napoleonic Continental Blockade and keen competition from other coffee producing countries. By the 1840's the industry was in a state of abandonment as far as plantation production was concerned.