

We not only get a good sense of their beliefs and how the community evolved around these beliefs, but also a glimpse of intimate religious practices and social and spiritual quandaries within Santa Brigida and a detailed account of the community's relations with other Brazilians.

Wright-Rios

LAURENT DUBOIS, *A Colony of Citizens: Revolution & Slave Emancipation in the French Caribbean, 1787-1804*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2004.

The French Caribbean has been the subject of several studies over the last two decades. Unsurprisingly, Santo Domingo has received most of the attention at the expense of places like French Guyana, Martinique and Guadeloupe. *A Colony of Citizens* is a welcome addition in that it enriches our knowledge regarding one of these peripheral colonies during what was probably the most exciting historical period of modern times: the convulsive fifteen years that followed the outbreak of the French Revolution.

This book is divided into three parts, each of which is subdivided into several chapters. Part I, "Prophecy, Revolt and Emancipation, 1787-1794" examines the role of Guadeloupe's slaves in the political events of the period. Starting with the slave rebellion of Trois Rivières in 1793, Dubois examines the ways in which slaves and free coloured took part in the political drama of the time. He looks at the impact of the French Revolution upon Caribbean slaves, arguing that the new epoch brought fresh ideas which the slaves enthusiastically embraced and modified to their needs. Interestingly, Dubois is not quick to deny the importance of the traditions and beliefs of the many African "peoples" that constituted an important segment of the slave population.

After carefully analyzing the Guadeloupe slave system, he proceeds to explore the, tense new situation and its effect on all the island's inhabitants. A particularly intriguing aspect of his argument involves the transformations undergone by the slaves' language of resistance. Part I constitutes a good example of how scholars should approach the historical sources at their disposal. Despite the many problems he had to confront, Dubois has succeeded in mapping the social structure of late 18th century Guadeloupe society. Part I concludes with the arrival of the French Decree of Emancipation, which ushered in a new epoch of ceaseless debate and development surrounding the significance of Republican citizenship and ultimately the concept of Freedom itself.

Part II, “The Meaning of Citizenship, 1794-1798” is devoted to the years following the emancipation of the slaves. According to the author, these years saw a continuous process of redefining freedom and citizenship. Nevertheless, few changes actually took place in the lives of the slaves, particularly rural slaves who were forced to remain on their plantations by the newly installed regime of Victor Hughes. Next Dubois addresses Hughes’s attempt to employ the ex-slaves as soldiers in his Caribbean campaigns against the British, and examines how the latter began employing legal procedures to their own advantage. These changes should not be taken lightly, as they all contributed to visible changes in late 18th-century Guadeloupe society, changes that would later be reversed. In fact, Dubois shows us how Victor Hughes came to abandon his egalitarian policies during his final years in power. By inserting incisive comments and basing his arguments on relevant documents, the author cleverly demonstrates the problems and rebellions that Hughes had to face while defending his newly adopted anti-republicanism and the policies he used to keep the island under French control.

Ultimately, most of the achievements that were gained between 1791 and 1797 were doomed to disappear. Part III, “The Boundaries of the Republic, 1798-1804” examines the breakdown of the sublime ideals represented by French republicanism and ends with the beginning of the Napoleonic Era and the reinstating of slavery in the French Antilles. This last part of the book constitutes an impressive piece of historical analysis in which Dubois examines and draws conclusions regarding the violent conflicts which arose from the tensions between Napoleon’s France and those residents of Guadeloupe who continued to adhere to the principles of the French Revolution.

The book, then, deals with a wide variety of issues, some of which, however, are not explored as deeply as we would have liked. I wondered after reading the first chapters whether the Caribbean connection was indeed more extensive than the author suggests. The impact of the conflicts that existed at that time in the non-French Caribbean is perhaps not sufficiently emphasized, nor is the United States’ role in the major changes occurring during that time. Although not one of the author’s concerns, I could not help wondering about the impact, if any, of the events detailed in the book on the neighboring islands. Many studies have been conducted which assess the impact of the French and Haitian Revolutions on the Americas. However, very few address the changes provoked directly or indirectly by the rebellions of 1793 and 1798, the regime of Victor Hughes or the reaction against the reinstatement of slavery after Napoleon’s rise to power. Here Dubois shows us a path to follow, although he has not walked down it himself.

Overall, this book constitutes an outstanding contribution to Caribbean historiography and Dubois has arguably written one of the best monographs on the Age of Revolution to date. He has succeeded in placing the small island of Guadeloupe and its inhabitants at the center of the debate regarding the role played by slaves and free coloreds in the revolutionary events that occurred throughout the period. Ultimately, this book may be regarded as a kind of memorial –similar to those inscriptions placed in the Pantheon in Paris– to men such as Louis Delgrès and Toussaint L'Ouverture, who are enthusiastically mentioned in the introduction. This homage, however, is more exceptional since it also includes the thousands of anonymous men and women who played a role in the progressive transformations that took place in Guadeloupe during the Age of Revolution.

Manuel Barcia

University of Essex

ANTONIO SANTAMARIA-GARCIA: *Sin azúcar no hay país. La industria azucarera y la economía cubana (1919-1939)*, Universidad de Sevilla, 2001, 624 p.

This book, by the Spanish historian Antonio Santamaría García, deals with a subject that has already been examined by many prominent writers. However, the complexity of the Cuban sugar industry's history leaves room for further research. The Cuban sugar industry reached glorious heights in the first decades of the 20th century only to plunge to the depths of crisis. Therefore, it is not surprising that researchers examining the Cuban case have viewed it through so many different prisms.

Antonio Santamaría García focuses his investigations on one of the most critical periods of Cuban economic history, namely 1919-1930. Those years marked the transition of the Cuban sugar industry from its peak in 1919, when sugar surged out of the “Pearl of the Caribbean” to quench the world’s thirst for this commodity, to a reverse tendency brought on by the economic crisis of 1930. The author follows the struggles of the Cuban sugar industry until 1939, when a certain degree of stabilization was achieved before the industry suffered another temporary setback during WWII.

The author examines the economic problems that arose in the island during the above- mentioned period from a new angle external to the sugar struggles. He claims that historiography has not gone deeply enough into the rationale behind the State’s policies regarding its main industry. Santamaría brings up new arguments and explanations for symptoms and processes, which he supports with an abundance of figures, graphics and comparative tables as well as an ex-