

national archives in France, Viêt Nam, Cambodia, and the United States as well as organizational, private, and institutional archives. The range of published primary sources and the secondary sources are also more than impressive. The level of research for this book is nothing short of phenomenal. Aso's expertise on this subject is indisputable. The second quality pertains to the writing, which is clear and free of jargon. Readers who are not familiar with certain scientific terms or concepts will have little difficulty: Aso explains them diligently. *Rubber and the Making of Vietnam's* breadth is of interest to scholars and students from various disciplines such as History, Science, Sociology, Political Science, and Anthropology as it analyzes linked processes present in colonial, postcolonial, and conflict contexts.

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CORMACK, William S. – *Patriots, Royalists, and Terrorists in the West Indies: The French Revolution in Martinique and Guadeloupe*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2019. 400 p.

While much scholarship on the French Revolution in the Caribbean has concentrated on Saint-Domingue, *Patriots, Royalists, and Terrorists in the West Indies* examines the political and social turmoil that erupted in Martinique and Guadeloupe from c. 1789–1802. William Cormack argues that the revolutionary conflicts in the Windward Islands were shaped as much by the “realities of race and slavery” as they were “inspired by the political drama unfolding in France” (p. 262). By exploring Martinique and Guadeloupe as central sites of revolutionary upheaval and transformation, Cormack highlights the ways in which they “should be seen as part of the larger story of the French Revolution” (p. 263).

Through an analysis of administrative reports, official correspondence, and the records of colonial councils, the book's eight chapters offer a chronological account of the French Revolution in Martinique and Guadeloupe. Cormack makes a compelling case for how metropolitan rumors, discourse, signs, symbols, and communications (the “revolutionary script”) shaped social and political upheaval in the Windward Islands. This approach expands our understanding of how the civil wars, slave uprisings, and inter-island conflicts that exploded in the Caribbean from 1789 to 1802 emerged from the ways in which colonial populations experienced, understood, and contested the French Revolution (p. 3). Different factions of the colonial population (which Cormack classifies as “patriots,” “royalists,” or “terrorists”) seized on the revolutionary script from the metropole, which they applied to their specific circumstances—generating “competing claims to speak for the nation” (p. 263). *Patriots, Royalists, and Terrorists in the West Indies* thus argues that even as events in France furnished colonial actors with a continuously evolving “script for revolutionary action,” it was local political, social, and economic

contingencies that shaped how these populations grappled with revolutionary transformation (p. 3).

Cormack predominantly focuses on the White populations of the Windward Islands—composed of *grand blancs* (colonial administrators, planters, and elite merchants), as well as *petits blancs* (soldiers, sailors, clerks, tradesmen, and poor Whites)—and examines their role in exacerbating revolutionary conflict. While Cormack gives less attention to free people of colour and enslaved persons, which constituted the majority of the colonial population, his examination of factional fighting between *grands blancs* and *petits blancs* offers insight into how this discord rendered Martinique and Guadeloupe vulnerable to crises of political legitimacy, civil wars, invasions, and rebellions in which free people of colour and enslaved persons played central roles.

The book's chapters correspond to different phases of the Revolution in the Windward Islands. Chapter 1 offers a particularly rich account of Martinique and Guadeloupe on the eve of the Revolution and argues that, despite serving as integral "sources of tremendous national wealth," France's control of the Windward Islands was "neither secure nor stable," as social and political order were weakened by bitter internal social divisions (p. 12). Economic disparity between the *grands blancs* and *petits blancs*, as well as the increasing demands of free people of colour for social and political equality, all compounded tensions among the free population. Combined with the fact that over 80% of the population were enslaved Africans or people of African descent, these dynamics all converged to make "the Windward Islands a powder keg" by 1789 (p. 13). The outbreak of the Revolution in the metropole exposed these internal divisions in Martinique and Guadeloupe, as "the communication of new political forms, radical concepts, and subversive language from France" ignited local conflicts (p. 38). Newly formed colonial assemblies seized the opportunity to demand greater local autonomy, planters challenged the authority of colonial administrators and mercantile restrictions, free people of colour demanded civil rights, and enslaved persons tried to seize freedom. The outbreak of the Revolution thus provided the framework for these groups to contest or reaffirm racial, economic, and social hierarchies in Martinique and Guadeloupe.

The next five chapters trace successive phases of the Revolution in the Windward Islands between 1789 and 1794. They detail the political crises, slave rebellions, civil wars, and counterrevolutionary activities that unfolded during this period. Cormack highlights how communication, rumor, and competing claims to political legitimacy further exacerbated factionalism in the colonial population. Chapter 2, for example, examines the pivotal role that rumor played in the outbreak of slave rebellion and revolutionary violence in 1789. In August of that year, enslaved people launched a large-scale revolt following rumors that Louis XVI abolished slavery. Cormack's analysis of dispatches from militia captains, investigative tribunals, and even anonymous letters reportedly written by enslaved rebels revealed how rumors of emancipation and "familiarity with the language of the political crisis in France" inspired the rebels (p. 26). Therefore, the 1789 slave revolt in Martinique was connected to "rumours of the political drama unfolding across the Atlantic" (p. 46). Subsequent chapters trace the outbreak of civil war in the Windward Islands,

the efforts of colonial commissioners to reassert metropolitan control and impose political order, counterrevolutionary insurgency, British military invasion, and the continued problem of maintaining slavery in a newly formed republic.

The seventh and eighth chapters consider the different trajectories of Martinique and Guadeloupe after 1794, when both islands experienced British occupation. Under commissioner Victor Hugues, France quickly re-captured Guadeloupe, and the colony experienced several years of radical revolution. Hugues declared the abolition of slavery, instituted Jacobin rule (including symbols of the Terror, such as the guillotine), and embarked on a quasi-war against Britain in the neighboring colonies of the eastern Caribbean by mobilizing privateers and encouraging local uprisings led by Indigenous and Black rebels. Cormack's account of Hugues's regime in Guadeloupe makes Chapter 7 one of the strongest in the book, illuminating many possibilities for further study of inter-island conflicts throughout the Lesser Antilles during the revolutionary era.

In contrast to radical emancipation and republicanism in Guadeloupe, Chapter 8 reveals how Martinique reimposed pre-revolutionary law and order under British rule from 1794 to 1802. Cormack argues that although there was much tension and conflict between French planters and British administrators—especially over issues of trade, taxation, and management of confiscated property—these factions were united around their efforts to police revolutionary communication, restore racial hierarchy, and shore up slavery in response to emancipation in Saint-Domingue and Guadeloupe. Under British rule, Martinique's sovereign council restored Old Regime laws to “purge republican ideals and sympathies and to silence revolutionary claims to authority” (p. 254).

Among the many strengths of *Patriots, Royalists, and Terrorists in the West Indies* is Cormack's detailed account of how the revolutionary script from France was reinterpreted by various factions in the Windward Islands as they claimed national legitimacy and struggled for political power. This approach brings into focus the myriad and often contradicting ways in which Martinique and Guadeloupe absorbed and remade revolutionary political culture. Cormack also lays the groundwork for many promising avenues for future research, particularly with respect to how the revolutionary script shaped inter-island dynamics among the European colonies of the Lesser Antilles.

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BANTIGNY, Ludivine – *La Commune au présent. Une correspondance par-delà le temps*. Paris, La Découverte, 2021, 400 p.

Publié à l'occasion des 150 ans de la Commune de Paris, le dernier ouvrage de Ludivine Bantigny ouvre de nouvelles perspectives, non seulement sur l'événement en soi, mais aussi sur son impact et sa place dans divers récits mémoriels. Composé