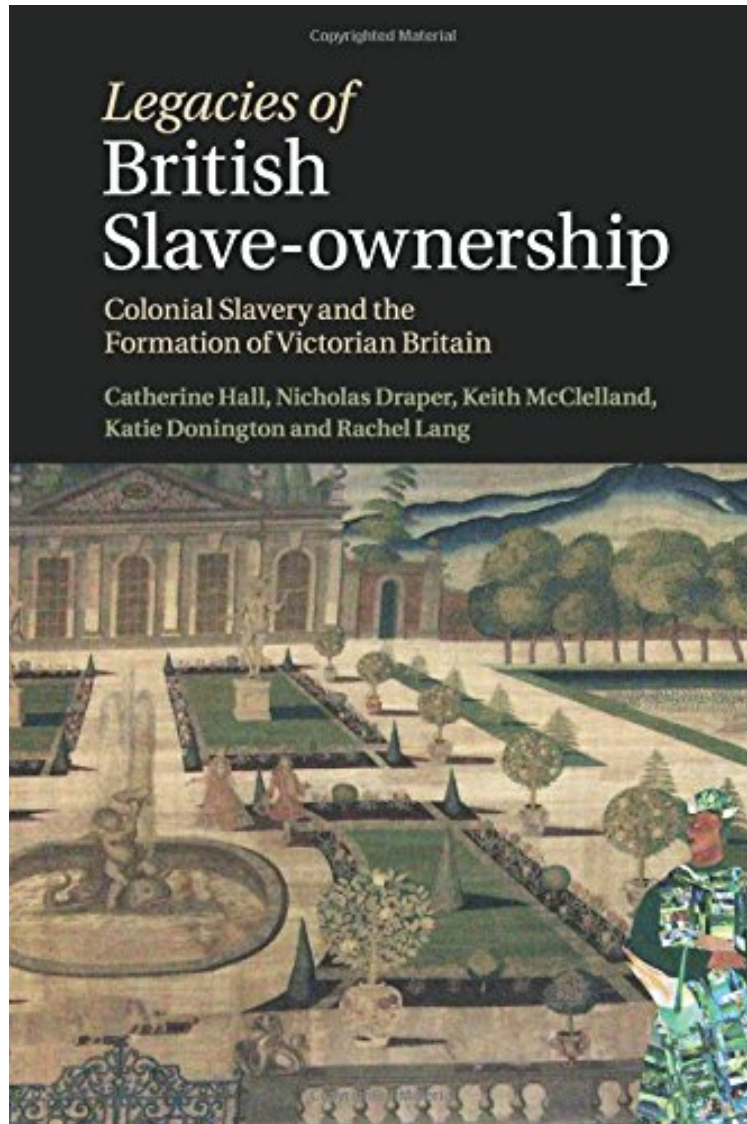


(Download pdf ebook) Legacies of British Slave-Ownership: Colonial Slavery and the Formation of Victorian Britain

Legacies of British Slave-Ownership: Colonial Slavery and the Formation of Victorian Britain

Catherine Hall, Nicholas Draper, Keith McClelland, Katie Donington, Rachel Lang
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#526030 in Books Hall Catherine 2016-09-29 2016-09-29 Original language: English 9.02 x .71 x 5.98l, #File Name: 1316635260338 pages Legacies of British Slave Ownership | File size: 22.Mb

Catherine Hall, Nicholas Draper, Keith McClelland, Katie Donington, Rachel Lang : Legacies of British Slave-Ownership: Colonial Slavery and the Formation of Victorian Britain before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Legacies of British Slave-Ownership: Colonial Slavery and the Formation of Victorian Britain:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. EssentialBy Peter StreetActually I think it is probably worth five stars, but it's part of a debate which has a long way to go, and against the outcome of which it will be judged. It is also one outcome of an unprecedented research project at University College, London, which has taken a single source, the details of the compensation paid to the owners of slaves in British territories in the mid 1830s, when slavery was finally "abolished" (for which expression read "replaced by a system of apprenticeship which enabled slave owners to carry on exploiting the "free" labourers on their estates for a few more years"), identify them and their activities and try to assess what difference the compensation made to its recipients. Only a very few actually used it to improve the condition of the former slaves themselves, and the evidence even for that is very scanty. The debate is about the role of slavery in the growth of the British economy as a whole over the two hundred and more years before emancipation, and the material here is only a partial contribution to it. The argument first advanced by Eric Williams, later the first Prime Minister of Trinidad that the slave economy played a decisive role is still open. But this, and its immediate predecessor, co-author Nicholas Draper's *The Price of Emancipation*, are vitally important. I still remember my first evening at my British university, in the mid 1950s, when, puzzling over how exactly to eat melon without making a fool of myself, I discovered at dinner I was sitting next to an Etonian, a descendant of a minor Scottish noble line through a very distinguished military figure and who is probably now a pillar of the establishment in some Deputy-Lord-this-or-that form or other. In the brusque gruff way of the period and his peers he talked - not to me - about time he had recently spent in West Africa, learning the way of the world by working on a plantation. Of his black fellow-workers - and this was someone who had already been through the alleged social university of National Service - he said, and I quote, "The only thing they understand is the whip". That was a member of my generation, which was also that of future US figures such as Paul Sarbanes and Frank Sieverts. What, of course, he meant was that that was what he thought HE understood. This was a minor member of the British governing elite beginning his - as they called it in the West Indies - "seasoning", and starting from there, then.....What this book and its companion and the databases which support them are beginning to do is - among other things - to explore that conversation indirectly. I can't imagine any more cogent historical research than that.

This book re-examines the relationship between Britain and colonial slavery in a crucial period in the birth of modern Britain. Drawing on a comprehensive analysis of British slave-owners and mortgagees who received compensation from the state for the end of slavery, and tracing their trajectories in British life, the volume explores the commercial, political, cultural, social, intellectual, physical and imperial legacies of slave-ownership. It transcends conventional divisions in history-writing to provide an integrated account of one powerful way in which Empire came home to Victorian Britain, and to reassess narratives of West Indian 'decline'. It will be of value to scholars not only of British economic and social history, but also of the histories of the Atlantic world, of the Caribbean and of slavery, as well as to those concerned with the evolution of ideas of race and difference and with the relationship between past and present.

"This is an important book which contributes significantly to modern British history. It, and the data which underpin it, have the potential not only to re-construct our national memory but also to inform related projects in countries such as France and the Netherlands, studies of re-investment in Britain's "informal" empire in the Americas, and demands from Caribbean states for reparations for the enduring suffering inflicted by the Atlantic slave trade." Mandy Banton, *Family and Community History* About the Author Catherine Hall is a well-known historian and is presently Professor of History at University College London. Nicholas Draper is a Senior Researcher in the Department of History at University College London. His areas of interest include slavery and abolition. Keith McClelland is a Senior Researcher in the Department of History at University College London and a well-established historian of the nineteenth century. Katie Donington is a Research Fellow in the Department of History at University College London. Rachel Lang is an administrator in the Department of History at University College London.