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Sugar and Slavery: An Economic History of the British West Indies, 1623-1775

Richard B. Sheridan

John P. McCarthy

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Sugar and Slavery: An Economic History of the British West Indies, 1623-1775

Richard B. Sheridan, 1994, Sugar and Slavery: An Economic History of the British West Indies, 1623-1775. Canoe Press, University of the West Indies, Kingston. xx + 529 pp. Appendices, select bibliography, and index. \$27.00 (paper).

Sheridan presents a comprehensive overview of the socioeconomic development of the British colonies of the Caribbean from their settlement through the American Revolution. He focuses on the organization and operation of sugar plantations and the role of the sugar economy in the Atlantic World. While recognizing its inhumanity, Sheridan notes the economic importance of sugar in Britain's economic and maritime development. Further, he argues that the wealth created by sugar fueled the industrial revolution.