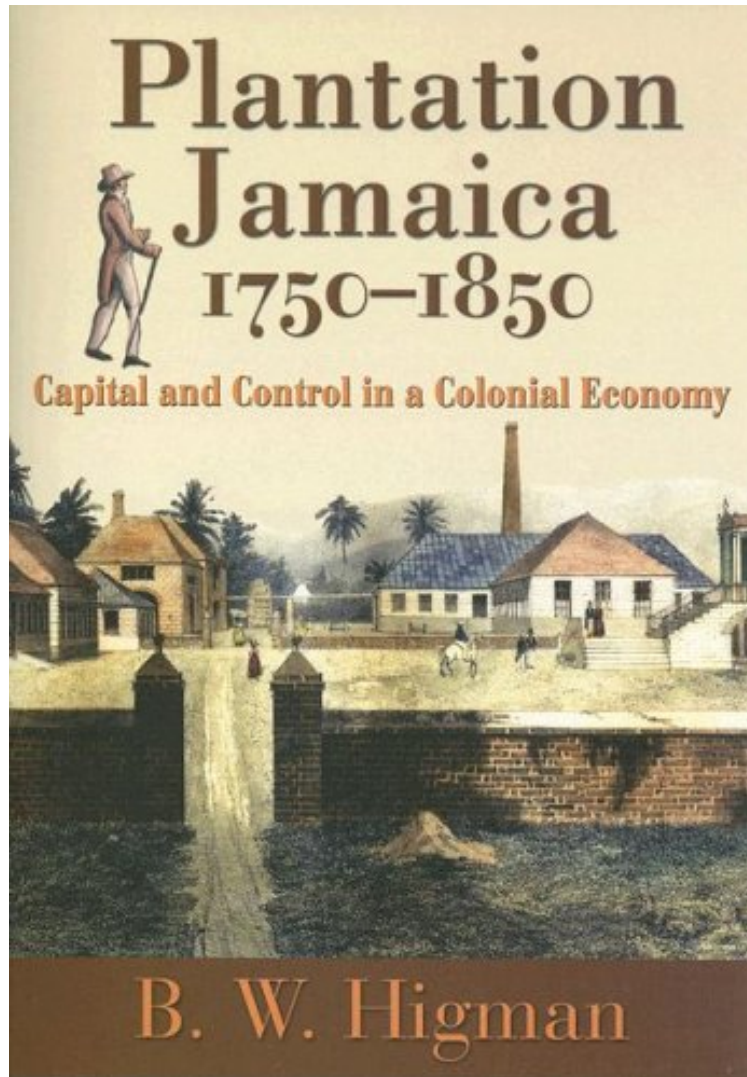


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Plantation Jamaica, 1750-1850: Capital and Control in a Colonial Economy

Professor B W Higman

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12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Meticulous study of plantation managementBy hmf22The title doesn't quite convey the essence of the work. Higman's monograph is an encyclopedically detailed study of plantation management in eighteenth and early nineteenth-century Jamaica, focusing in particular on the role of "planting

attorneys," who stood in for absentee proprietors. He draws some parallels to estate management in England, Ireland, and the U.S. South, and readers knowledgeable about those regions will find this work interesting. The second half of the book includes lengthy biographical sketches of two Jamaican planting attorneys, one who was active in the mid to late 18c, and one who was active in the early 19c. The book is well-written and concise, but its abstruse subject matter will daunt most general readers; it's really a book for scholars.

Analyses the important but neglected role of the attorneys who managed estates, chiefly for absentee proprietors, and assesses their efficiency and impact on Jamaica during slavery and freedom. This work charts both the extent of absentee ownership and the complex structure of the managerial hierarchy that stretched across the Atlantic.

"Another major contribution by the author to West Indian history and the history of slavery ... a first-rate study, among the best recent writings on these topics." "A sustained tour de force of superb scholarship that deals with an extremely important and hitherto lightly examined topic in Jamaican history in a way that will shape academic discourse on plantation Jamaica for a generation." "Plantation Jamaica challenges earlier stereotypes and generalizations about attorneyship and plantation management in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The book is essential reading for scholars of Caribbean economic and business history, and it will surely take its place as a standard text against which future scholarship on this issue will be judged." About the Author B.W. Higman is William Keith Hancock Professor of Australian History, former Head, History Program, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and the Academy for the Social Sciences in Australia, and Professor Emeritus, University of the West Indies.